

1 **I. Title page**

2 *Title:* More is Less: Net Gain in Species Richness, but Biotic Homogenization over 140 Years

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9 *Statement of authorship:* TFN compiled the data, did the analyses and wrote the first draft; HHB first  
10 conceived the idea and supervised analyses and writing; KSJ and MD contributed to interpretation  
11 and writing.

12 *Data accessibility statement:* The data will be made available at the Global Biodiversity Information  
13 Facility (GBIF).

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## 26 II. Abstract page

27 *Abstract:* While biodiversity loss continues globally, assessments of regional and local change over  
28 time have been equivocal. Here, we assess changes in plant species richness and beta diversity over  
29 140 years at the level of regions within a country. Using 19<sup>th</sup>-century flora censuses for fourteen  
30 Danish regions as a baseline, we overcome previous criticisms concerning short time series and  
31 neglect of completely altered habitats. We find that species composition has changed dramatically  
32 and directionally across all regions. Substantial species losses were more than offset by large gains,  
33 resulting in a net increase in species richness in all regions. The occupancy of initially widespread  
34 species increased, while initially rare species lost terrain. These changes were accompanied by strong  
35 biotic homogenization; i.e. regions are more similar now than they were 140 years ago. Species  
36 declining in Denmark were found to be in similar decline all over Northern Europe.

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### 49 **III. Main text**

#### 50 *Introduction*

51 Through the industrial era, the human impact on the world's ecosystems has increased dramatically  
52 (Mihoub *et al.* 2017). Anthropogenic pressures, including intensification of land use for food  
53 production (Burns *et al.* 2016; Vellend *et al.* 2017a), have significantly changed living conditions for  
54 wild species. Consensus holds that, at the global scale, such changes are causing species loss  
55 (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005). At smaller spatial scales however, species richness hangs  
56 on the balance between colonization and extirpation (Sax & Gaines 2003).

57 Recent meta-analyses of local to regional biodiversity have reported both positive and negative  
58 changes in species richness, with no net loss on average (Vellend *et al.* 2013; Dornelas *et al.* 2014;  
59 Elahi *et al.* 2015; Yoccoz *et al.* 2018). Yet, findings of no net loss remain controversial (Gonzalez *et*  
60 *al.* 2016; Vellend *et al.* 2017b; Cardinale *et al.* 2018; Primack *et al.* 2018), with central criticisms  
61 revolving around 1) the need for temporal baselines preceding most decisive anthropogenic changes  
62 and 2) analyses that account for land-use changes both negatively and positively affecting  
63 biodiversity. Here, we overcome central points of criticism by using high-quality landscape-scale data  
64 with a baseline well before the onset of industrialized agriculture. We further consider the separate  
65 contributions to change by native and exotic species, as suggested by Cardinale *et al.* (2018).

66 Biodiversity monitoring schemes (Timmermann *et al.* 2015), time-series data (Dornelas *et al.* 2014),  
67 historical collections (Hedenäs *et al.* 2002) and legacy studies (Keith *et al.* 2009) have all provided  
68 insight into changes in local and regional richness over time. All of these studies, however, have  
69 limitations. Studies that consider only a single habitat type (Alstad *et al.* 2016) or even a single site  
70 (Morueta-Holme *et al.* 2015) potentially overlook offsets of localized losses with gains elsewhere.  
71 Few studies manage to cover more than a couple of decades, and the exceptions mostly focus on  
72 unique and largely isolated environments, like islands (Sax & Gaines 2008; Chiarucci *et al.* 2017).

73 Historical biodiversity data can provide a baseline to measure changes against, but data can only help  
74 detecting effects of environmental changes that occurred within its timeframe. If human pressures  
75 have increased gradually over centuries, short-term data may not be able to measure biodiversity  
76 change properly (Mihoub *et al.* 2017), and may incorrectly identify the drivers of change (Beller *et*  
77 *al.* 2017), especially if lags in response are pronounced (Sand-Jensen *et al.* 2017). Quantifying effects  
78 of land-use change on local and regional biodiversity, in order to set informed management targets,  
79 requires relevant time scales (Mihoub *et al.* 2017).

80 In this study, we assess changes to regional plant species richness over c. 140 years. Our baseline data  
81 are 14 thorough regional plant censuses from Denmark published between 1857 and 1883. Change is  
82 assessed against contemporary data from the most recent national plant survey (Hartvig &  
83 Vestergaard 2015). During this period, urban area in Denmark tripled in extent, plantation area more  
84 than doubled, areal percentage rotational fields increased from 35 to 60 %, while natural and semi-  
85 natural habitats declined to less than half of their former area (Normander & Levin 2008). Although  
86 Denmark was already dominated by farmland by 1850, agricultural practice has strongly intensified  
87 since then, with more than 50 % of farmland put under drainage and nitrogen surplus increased six-  
88 fold (Normander & Levin 2008). Overall, the 14 study regions largely had a similar suite of habitat  
89 types as a point of departure, except some were almost devoid of woody plants, and they have  
90 undergone parallel land-use changes driven by economic and societal processes at the national or  
91 continental level (Fuchs *et al.* 2015). We consider both temporal changes in species richness within  
92 each region (alpha diversity) and in compositional heterogeneity between regions (beta diversity). To  
93 assess the generality of the observed biodiversity trends beyond the study area, we also compared the  
94 direction of species' change – decline or increase – to their red-list status in a range of neighbouring  
95 North European countries. We hypothesize that increased land-use intensity (farming, forestry,  
96 drainage, fertilization) has caused net losses in regional plant species richness, while the parallel

97 increase in intentional and unintentional introduction of plant species has led to gains in regional  
98 species richness. The data enable us to obtain a fair and unbiased assessment of the net change brought  
99 about by these opposed drivers. We hypothesize the identity of winner and loser species to be similar  
100 across regions, resulting in parallel changes in the flora and greater similarity across regions.

101

## 102 *Material and methods*

103 *Historical data:* In order to identify suitable historical sources, we searched all repositories, including  
104 the botanical collections at the Natural History Museum of Denmark, for published and unpublished  
105 local to regional floras from the times of Linnaeus to year 1900 (see also Pedersen 2015). We set the  
106 upper limit in order to have a baseline well before the industrialization of agriculture, air-borne  
107 pollution and climate change characterizing the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We discovered an upsurge of interest in  
108 floristic surveys in the decades after the publication of the first widely accessible Danish field flora  
109 books (Lange 1851; Rostrup 1860), resulting in a number of comprehensive landscape floras, as well  
110 as many presence-only accounts of noteworthy species. We carefully selected 14 comprehensive  
111 floras, of which the authors explicitly stated an aim to include all wild species. As a quality check,  
112 we assessed if common and widespread species (Rostrup 1904) were included or noted as absent, and  
113 similarly for rarer species mentioned as occurring in the particular region in other sources (e.g.  
114 national floras, reports mentioning stray finds of noteworthy species, etc.). We also assessed if the  
115 total species number reported deviated from the expected based on the surveyed land area (Fig. S1).

116 The 14 study regions – all situated in Denmark – vary in spatial extent between 22 and 1800 km<sup>2</sup> and  
117 include five smaller islands, four larger islands and five tracts of mainland areas (Fig. 1; Table S1).

118 In total, the study regions cover 6245 km<sup>2</sup>, corresponding to c. 15 % of the country's land area. Study  
119 areas are termed 'regions' throughout the text in accordance with the terminology of Sax and Gaines  
120 (2003). The historical floras comprised between 237 and 1222 species of higher plants (Table S1);

121 11 out of 14 had regional abundance data on an ordinal scale, while three included presence/absence  
122 data only.

123 *Present data:* Present data were gathered from the most recent national plant-survey, Atlas Flora  
124 Danica (AFD), carried out between 1992 and 2012 by the Danish Botanical Society in 5 × 5 km grid  
125 cells (Hartvig & Vestergaard 2015). To spatially match historical with present data, AFD data were  
126 compiled from the grid cells best corresponding to the historical region (see supporting information,  
127 Appendix 2). Present regional data had between 535 and 1643 species of higher plants (Table S1).  
128 No botanical surveys exist for the focal regions from intervening times.

129 *Data preparation:* Plant taxonomy and nomenclature were thoroughly standardized, using broad  
130 species concepts in order to avoid false appearances/disappearances. Hybrids were omitted and most  
131 infraspecific taxa lumped at the species level, unless we were certain that names had been used  
132 consistently through time. Some critical taxa were pooled at the genus or section level. Only records  
133 of species from outside gardens and other cultivation were included (details in Appendix 2). Species  
134 were assigned status as either native (Buchwald *et al.* 2013, appendix 1-3) or exotic (Buchwald *et al.*  
135 2013; NOBANIS 2017), with a few species noted as “NA”, if information on origin was equivocal  
136 or if combined taxa had different status. All data are available at the Global Biodiversity Information  
137 Facility (GBIF).

138 After standardization of names and taxonomy between time slices and exclusion of dubious taxa,  
139 historical and present data collectively comprise 1958 taxa of terrestrial and aquatic plants (23,791  
140 records of occurrence and abundance, 10,433 in historical and 13,358 in present data). Across all  
141 regions, 1367 taxa were recorded in the historical data (999 native, 344 exotic and 24 taxa of  
142 equivocal status) and 1822 in the present data (969 native, 823 exotic and 30 of equivocal status).  
143 These entities are hereinafter referred to as “species”.

144 *Abundance:* In 11 of 14 historical floras (all except regions 2, 7, 8; Table S1), regional abundance  
145 was recorded on an ordinal scale from “rare” to “very common”, or – for rare species – as a short list  
146 of named localities. We transformed this information, for each historical flora separately, into a semi-  
147 quantitative scale (0 to 1), by dividing the ordinal abundance category with the total number of  
148 categories used in the particular flora. In the present data, species’ regional abundance was estimated  
149 as the number of occupied reference grid cells divided by the total number of reference cells in the  
150 region (details in Appendix 2). Henceforth, we term the resulting metric ‘regional abundance’, while  
151 the number of regions, in which a species is present, is termed ‘occupancy’.

152 *Analysis:* All analyses were performed with R ver. 3.3.2.

153 Based on species presence/absence data from all 14 regions, the total species turnover, as well as  
154 relative appearances and disappearances over 140 years within each region, were computed using the  
155 “codyn” package (Hallett *et al.* 2016). Species turnover between time periods was estimated as the  
156 proportion of species either gained or lost, relative to the total number of species observed through  
157 time.

158 As only 11 out of 14 regions had information of regional abundance, and because abundance  
159 measures are generally more uncertain than presence/absence data, we calculated six turnover metrics  
160 with varying emphasis on presence/absence and abundance (Anderson *et al.* 2011). Specifically we  
161 calculated two purely compositional metrics: Sørensen and Jaccard binary dissimilarity (Chao *et al.*  
162 2005), as well as four abundance metrics: Bray-Curtis, altGower, Manhattan and Euclidian distances  
163 (Anderson *et al.* 2006). All metrics were calculated using the function “vegdist” in the Vegan package  
164 (Oksanen *et al.* 2016). To visualize the changes in composition, we used Principal Coordinates  
165 Analyses (PCoA). In the PCoA, difference between the two time periods was visualized as polygons  
166 enveloping all regions at each time slice. Comparing species’ regional abundance through time is



167 probably the most critical step in our data analyses. In order to test the sensitivity of the results  
168 obtained, we reran the above analyses of beta diversity with historical and present abundance merged  
169 into three broad categories (with approximately the same number of original categories in each) as a  
170 more conservative assessment (Appendix 2, example in Table S7).

171 To statistically evaluate significant differences in composition across time, the permutational manova  
172 (PERMANOVA) function “adonis2” was run with 999 permutations for all distance metrics  
173 (McArdle & Anderson 2001). To evaluate whether significant homogenization of the biota has  
174 occurred over time, the difference in distance from all regions to the spatial median was calculated  
175 for the two times separately using the function “betadisper” (Oksanen *et al.* 2016) following  
176 (Anderson *et al.* 2006). Significance was tested with ANOVA analysis of variance using the function  
177 “anova” from the “vegan”-package (Oksanen *et al.* 2016). Binary indices, Sørensen and Jaccard  
178 dissimilarity, were calculated for all 14 regions and the remaining four dissimilarity-metrics based on  
179 abundance calculated for the 11 regions with regional abundance data.

180 Dissimilarity between regions over time may in principle arise either due to species disappearing and  
181 new species arriving, i.e. replacement, or due to the sheer addition or loss of species, i.e. change in  
182 richness (Baselga, 2010). In order to approach the causes of an observed change in beta diversity,  
183 such as human introduction or eradication of species and anthropogenically driven environmental  
184 change, we decomposed Jaccard dissimilarity within each region over time into replacement and  
185 richness change following Podani & Schmera (2011). Analyses were done using the “adespatial”  
186 package (Dray *et al.* 2017; Legendre 2014).

187 To assess individual species’ tendency to gain or lose terrain over 140 years, we used Indicator  
188 Species Analysis (Dufrêne & Legendre 1997), as implemented in the “indicpecies” R package (De  
189 Cáceres & Legendre 2016). This approach was originally developed to associate species with groups

190 of observational units such as sites, but may be used for any *a priori* classification. We used ‘time  
191 slice’ (historical or present) as cluster partitioning and region as observational unit. When assigning  
192 species to time slices, their relative abundance, distribution between time slices and occupancy in  
193 number of regions were considered (Dufrêne & Legendre 1997). Three groups of species were  
194 identified: significant indicators of historical data (‘losers’), significant indicators of present data  
195 (‘winners’) and species not significant indicators of either period, with p-values obtained by  
196 permutation test (10,000 randomizations;  $\alpha < 0.05$ ). To compare historically ‘losing’ species in the  
197 14 Danish regions with the trend in countries with similar abiotic conditions, biota and land-use  
198 history, red-list status for all relevant species was compiled for nine North European countries or  
199 regions: Norway, Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Flanders and Brussels  
200 regions (Belgium), Wallonia (Belgium), the Czech Republic and the Wielkopolska region (Poland).  
201 We tested for association between the three groups of temporal response and the six IUCN red-list  
202 categories (transformed to a semi-quantitative scale (0 = Least concern (LC), 1 = Near threatened  
203 (NT), 2 = Vulnerable (VU), 3= Endangered (EN), 4 = Critically endangered (CR), 5 = Regionally  
204 extinct (RE)), and these figures were summed per species over countries to give a “species  
205 conservation index”). This index was then used as a predictor in a cumulative logit model (in the R  
206 package “ordinal”, Christensen 2015) of species’ status as significant loser, winner or stable species.  
207 This model treats data appropriately as categorical without assuming the distance between categories  
208 to be equal (Agresti 2012).

209

## 210 *Results*

211 Plant species composition in all 14 regions showed dramatic changes over the past 140 years. At the  
212 regional level, colonization by far exceeded extinction (Fig. 1B). Historically there were 1367 species

213 in total across these regions, and now there are 1822 species. On average, 327 new species were  
214 added, while 125 species were lost, resulting in an average net increase of 202 species per region  
215 (Fig. 1, Table S2). All regions harboured more species in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century than they did in the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
216 Appearance rate for exotic species was 0.66 ( $\pm 0.03$ ), much higher than the disappearance rate of 0.11  
217 ( $\pm 0.01$ ) (Fig. 1C & D; for number of species see Table S3). For natives in contrast, mean appearance  
218 rate was only 0.17 ( $\pm 0.04$ ), while a disappearance rate of 0.12 ( $\pm 0.01$ ) was similar to that for exotic  
219 species (Fig. 1C & D; Table S3). Overall, the proportion of exotic species increased from making up  
220 25% of the reported species in historical data to 45% in present data. Changes in composition were  
221 significant for all turnover metrics, based on incidence or abundance data alike (Fig. 2; Fig. S2 and  
222 S3). On average, regions had an overlap in plant species composition of only 44% between the two  
223 time periods (Jaccard dissimilarity: 36-67%; Table S4). For most regions, the large dissimilarity was  
224 primarily caused by replacement of species, with the main exception being the historically species  
225 poor islands of Læsø and Anholt (regions 7 and 8), on which changes were rather caused by increased  
226 richness (Mean proportion for all regions, replacement: 0.228, richness: 0.208; Fig. S4).

227 The change to biotas was highly systematic: species composition in all regions changed largely in the  
228 same direction (Fig. 2). This shift is consistent despite differences between regions in soils, climate  
229 and land use (Hartvig & Vestergaard 2015; Statistics Denmark 2018). The directional shift was  
230 equally apparent for native and exotic species (Fig. 2; Fig. S3). In general, native species that  
231 historically had relatively high occupancy expanded to inhabit all or most regions, while many natives  
232 with historically low occupancy in number of regions (Fig. 3A) and low historical abundance within  
233 regions (Fig. S8) plummeted or were lost. Similarly, a common pool of exotic species escaped  
234 cultivation and became naturalized across regions (Fig. 3B, Fig. S8).

235 The flora across regions experienced strong biotic homogenization, i.e. beta diversity between the 14  
236 regions declined (Fig. 2, Fig. S2 and S3). The median of the distance to the spatial median was always

237 lower for present than historical data (Fig. S5, S6 and S7). However, the difference between present  
238 and historical homogeneity was only significant when abundance data was considered (Fig. S6 and  
239 S7 B-D). The fact that loss of beta diversity was significant for quantitative measures only indicates  
240 that homogenization was driven particularly by increased abundance of species already relatively  
241 common. Our conservative control analysis, using only three abundance categories, yielded very  
242 similar results: Significant directional change over time (Fig. S9) as well as biotic homogenization  
243 (Fig. S10). Despite large variation in area between regions, we found areal extent to have no  
244 detectable effect on turnover metrics (Fig. S11).

245 Fifty species were found to be significant losers in terms of regional abundance and occupancy across  
246 regions, while 236 species were significant winners. A total of 1672 species had no significant  
247 association to any of the time slices (Table 1, Table S5). Of the losing species, 90% are listed as  
248 threatened in nine neighbouring North European countries (Table 1). Conversely, among the winning  
249 species, 20 % were listed as threatened in neighbouring countries, which is a significantly lower  
250 percentage ( $z = -12.3$ ,  $p \ll 0.001$ , Table S6).

251

## 252 *Discussion*

253 While the unfolding of a global ‘extinction crisis’ is widely accepted, there is controversy over the  
254 direction of recent local to regional biodiversity change (Thomas 2013; Dornelas *et al.* 2014;  
255 Gonzalez *et al.* 2016; Vellend *et al.* 2017b; Cardinale *et al.* 2018). We used 14 regional floras from  
256 Denmark to assess net change in plant species richness and composition over 140 years, during which  
257 land use has been radically transformed. For all study regions, we find great losses but even greater  
258 gains, resulting in a ubiquitous net increase in regional plant species richness. All study regions  
259 include approximately the same suite of land-use types, some of which have increased in areal

260 coverage over the 140 year study period, e.g. plantation forest, while others have decreased, e.g.  
261 natural grasslands. Thus, the criticism of a bias towards extant pristine area and away from areas  
262 converted to arable land or concrete (Cardinale *et al.* 2018) does not apply to our study. Our analysis  
263 has a balanced representation of species, habitat and land-use change types, and includes natural areas  
264 that have been completely altered. Despite this improved ability to detect and correctly estimate  
265 losses, we find a net gain in species richness, because losses are more than outbalanced by gains. This  
266 positive balance applies non-native species in all regions as well as native species in six of 14 regions.  
267 Using 19<sup>th</sup>-century legacy data allows us to set an earlier baseline than most other studies (e.g. Keith  
268 *et al.* 2009; Vellend *et al.* 2013; Dornelas *et al.* 2014), and thereby enables a reliable assessment of  
269 biodiversity change beyond short-term fluctuations. On average, only a little more than half of the  
270 species in regional floras were constant over time, evidencing both substantial species losses and  
271 dramatic compositional change. Replacement of species, rather than richness changes, played the  
272 largest role for compositional change in most regions, with the remote and previously species poor  
273 island of Læsø and Anholt as exceptions (region 7 and 8). The observed compositional turnover was  
274 considerably larger than levels found in studies over shorter time spans (Smart *et al.* 2006; Alstad *et*  
275 *al.* 2016). Our data did not allow estimation of changing turnover rates, but our results nevertheless  
276 indicate a cumulative effect on species turnover as time progresses.

277 The compositional changes found were markedly unidirectional (Fig. 2), despite some initial  
278 between-region variation in dominant soil type and local climate. These parallel changes in species  
279 composition suggests a strong effect of similar land-use change across regions. The most likely  
280 drivers are 1) intensification of agriculture, 2) use of a common pool of woody species for  
281 afforestation and landscaping, and 3) escape of numerous exotic ornamental plant species commonly  
282 grown in gardens across Denmark, in fact across much of Europe (van Kleunen *et al.* 2015). An

283 additional effect of climate change seems likely, with the winner species that are listed as threatened  
284 in neighbouring countries as potential examples of climate-driven changes.

285 The direction of change was clear: from regionally unique species towards ubiquitous species. The  
286 group of winners consists of plant species, exotic and native alike, that were relatively widespread  
287 and abundant by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, along with more recently introduced species, in particular  
288 garden-escapes (occupancy change Fig. 3A & B, abundance change Fig. S8). In contrast, loser species  
289 were mainly historically rare and range-restricted native species. The features common to winner  
290 species probably lie in their habitat requirements and evolutionary strategies, rather than their  
291 biogeographic origin. This is aligned with studies documenting certain plant traits, such as nitrophily  
292 and weedy lifestyle, to be associated with success in human-altered landscapes (McCune & Vellend  
293 2013; Timmermann *et al.* 2015). Along this line of evidence, numerous stress-tolerant plant species  
294 (with traits similar to losing native species) have been introduced as rock garden ornamentals, but  
295 almost none of these exotics have spread into the wild (Weidema 2000). This observation indicates  
296 that anthropogenic land-use change, rather than competitive effects of invasive plant species, is the  
297 main driver of the compositional changes. In other words, the exotic species are passengers rather  
298 than drivers of the observed biotic change at the regional scale (Didham *et al.* 2005, Thomas & Palmer  
299 2015). In present data, we found a high proportion of species being exotic (45%), much higher than  
300 the figure reported for Great Britain (20%; Thomas & Palmer 2015). However, our historical and  
301 present surveys cover all types of habitat, including urban brownfields, railway yards and greenspace  
302 near gardens, not just natural habitat types, in which only about 5 % of the plant species are exotic  
303 (Danish national nature surveillance programme, unpublished data).

304 Vascular plants proved well suited to assessments of biotic change, not the least because of a bulk of  
305 accurate and reliable legacy data. However, plants are – in contrast to most other taxa – heavily traded  
306 and planted for ornament, and many escape into the wild (Dehnen-Schmutz *et al.* 2007). Thus, among

307 other taxa, the contribution of naturalized escapes to outbalancing the losses of native species is  
308 probably much smaller than we have observed for plants.

309 On the background of global biodiversity loss, the consistent net gain in regional richness may be  
310 perceived as unambiguously positive. However, gains do not necessarily compensate losses, as we  
311 do not see replacement of like with like. For example, replacing species that represent distinct  
312 evolutionary lineages with novel species is effectively habitat loss for many specialist phytophagous  
313 and pollinating insects (Eskildsen *et al.* 2015). Moreover, the species that have lost ground in  
314 Denmark are similar across Northern Europe at large, making the long-term systematic changes  
315 relevant to biodiversity conservation at larger scales.

316 We found strong homogenization of species composition between regions to have taken place over  
317 time, driven by increased occupancy of a mixture of native and exotic species. Biotic homogenization  
318 can be rapid (Magurran *et al.* 2015), is a global phenomenon across time and space (Baiser *et al.*  
319 2012) and, for plants, often driven by the spread of ubiquitous native species (Keith *et al.* 2009;  
320 McCune & Vellend 2013). Homogenization of species composition between regions leads to  
321 impoverishment of larger-scale biotas (Smart *et al.* 2006), linking the regional increase in species  
322 richness to global loss of species (Sax & Gaines 2003) and thereby posing a serious concern for global  
323 biodiversity (Gossner *et al.* 2016; Groffman *et al.* 2017).

324

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328

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479 **IV. Figure legends and table**

480

481 **Figure 1.** *The 14 study regions in Denmark and change in number of species from 1857-1883 to*  
482 *2012. A) Study region 1–14 (details in Table S1); B) Net change in total species number per region*  
483 *over 140 years (PERMANOVA,  $F = 6.23$ ,  $r^2 = 0.63$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ); C) Number of species appearing per*  
484 *region; D) Number of species disappearing per region. Colours and region numbers in panel B follow*  
485 *panel A. In panel C and D, native species (dark grey), exotic species (intermediate grey), and species*  
486 *of unknown status (light grey) are indicated.*

487

488 **Figure 2.** *Species compositional change from historical (1857-1883) to present data (2012) in 14*  
489 *Danish regions for: A) All species, B) Only exotic species, C) Only native species. Principal*  
490 *Coordinates Analysis based on Jaccard dissimilarity. Blue squares are historical data, red triangles*  
491 *present data. Dotted lines are drawn between identical regions in historical and present data and*  
492 *numbers refer to regions in Fig. 1 and Table S1. Polygons are drawn around each time slice (historical*  
493 *= blue, present = red), with centroids marked with asterisks. Full grey lines mark the distance from*  
494 *each region to the centroid of each time-period. Historical species composition is significantly*  
495 *different from the contemporary species composition (PERMANOVAs: A)  $p < 0.001$ ; B)  $p < 0.001$ ; C)*  
496  *$p < 0.01$ . Relative eigenvalues of PCoA axis 1 (1) and PCoA axis 2 (2): A) 1=0.29, 2=0.17; B) 1=0.3,*  
497 *2=0.14; C) 1=0.36, 2=0.12). For a comparison of distance to spatial median for all panels, see Fig. S5.*

498

499 **Figure 3.** *Change in species' occupancy in 14 study regions over 140 years. A. Native species, B.*  
500 *Exotic species. The upper panels compare present occupancy to historical. Historically common and*  
501 *newly introduced species have spread (position above the dotted 1:1 lines in A and B), while*  
502 *occupancy of many rare native species has decreased (position below the dotted 1:1 line in A). The*

503 lower panels show the proportion of species in each historical category of occupancy that has  
 504 increased (light green), decreased (dark red) or remained stable (grey) in occupancy over c. 140 years.

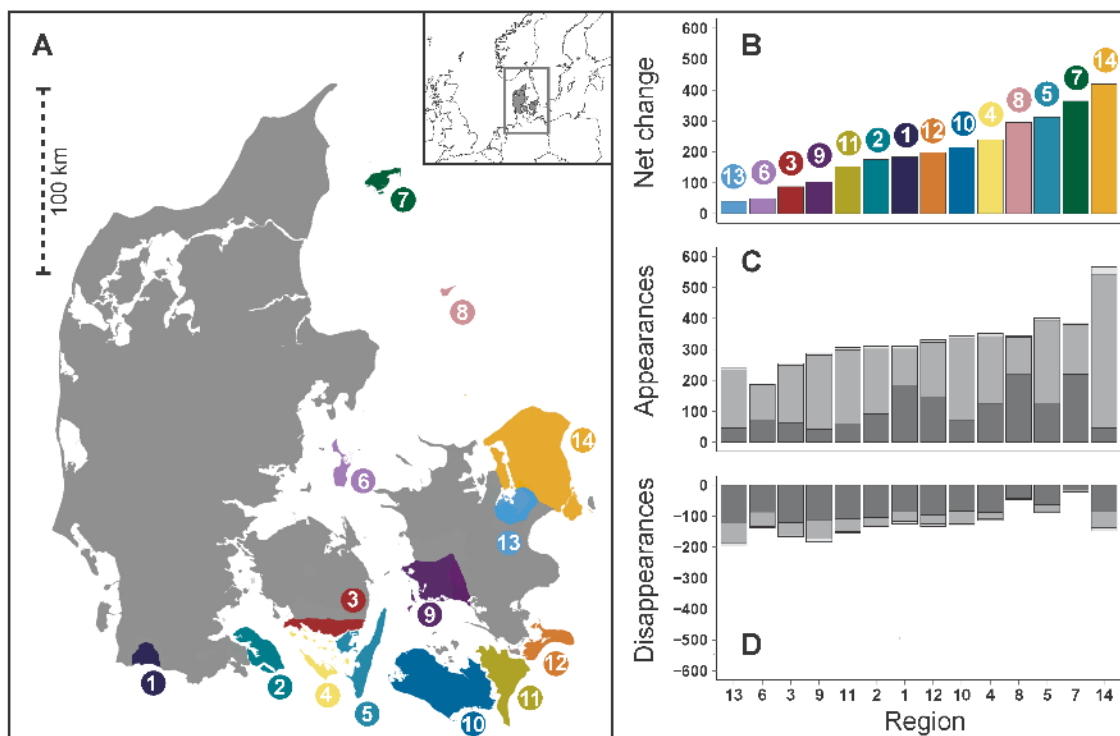
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506 **Table 1.** *The proportion of species losing and winning in Denmark recorded as threatened in nine*  
 507 *neighbouring NW European countries.* Significantly more species associated with the historical  
 508 Danish flora are red-listed and significantly fewer associated with the contemporary Danish flora are  
 509 red-listed (cumulative logit model;  $p < 0.001$ ).

Species' trend	No. of species	Proportion of species red-listed in NW Europe
Loosing species	50	0.90
Stable species	1670	0.50
Winning species	236	0.20

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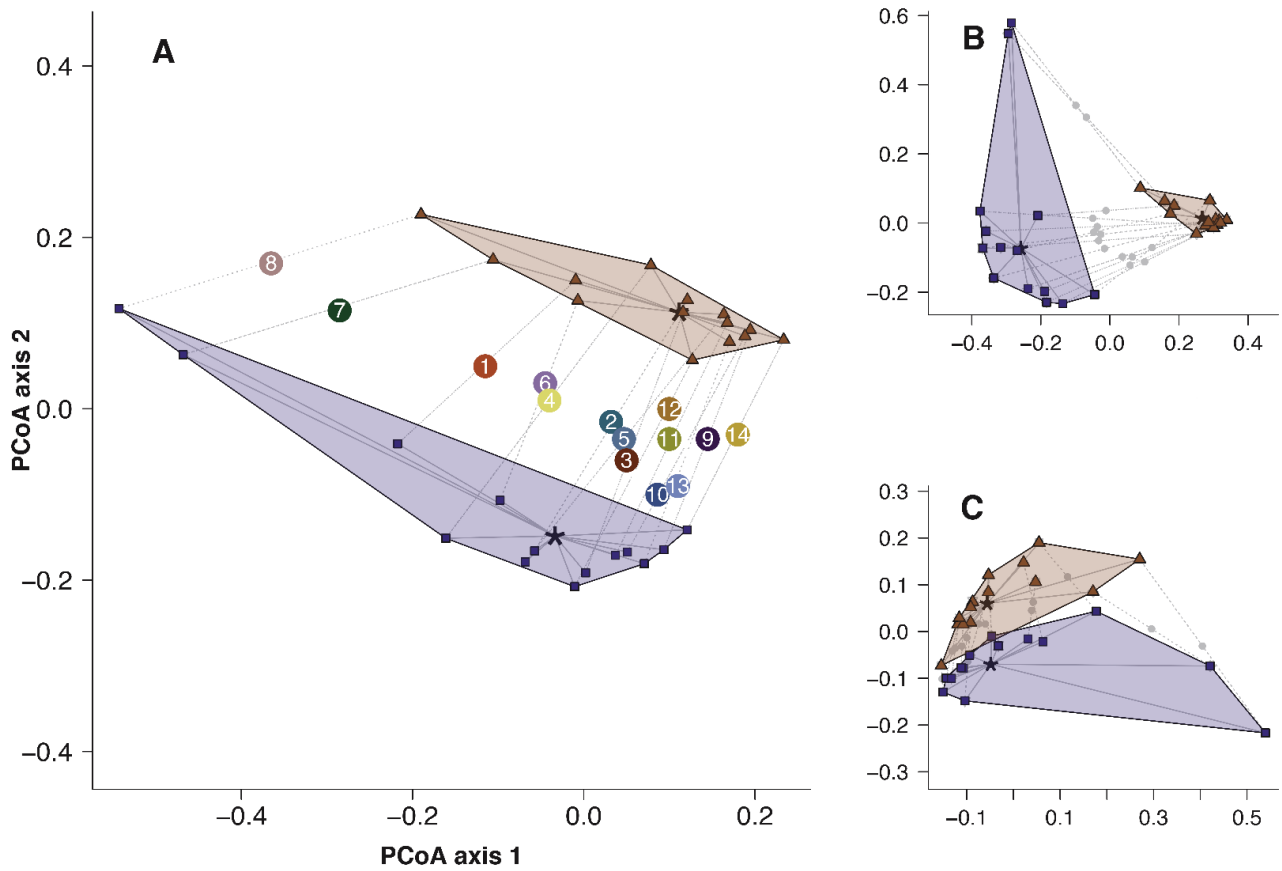
511 **Figure 1**



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514 **Figure 2**



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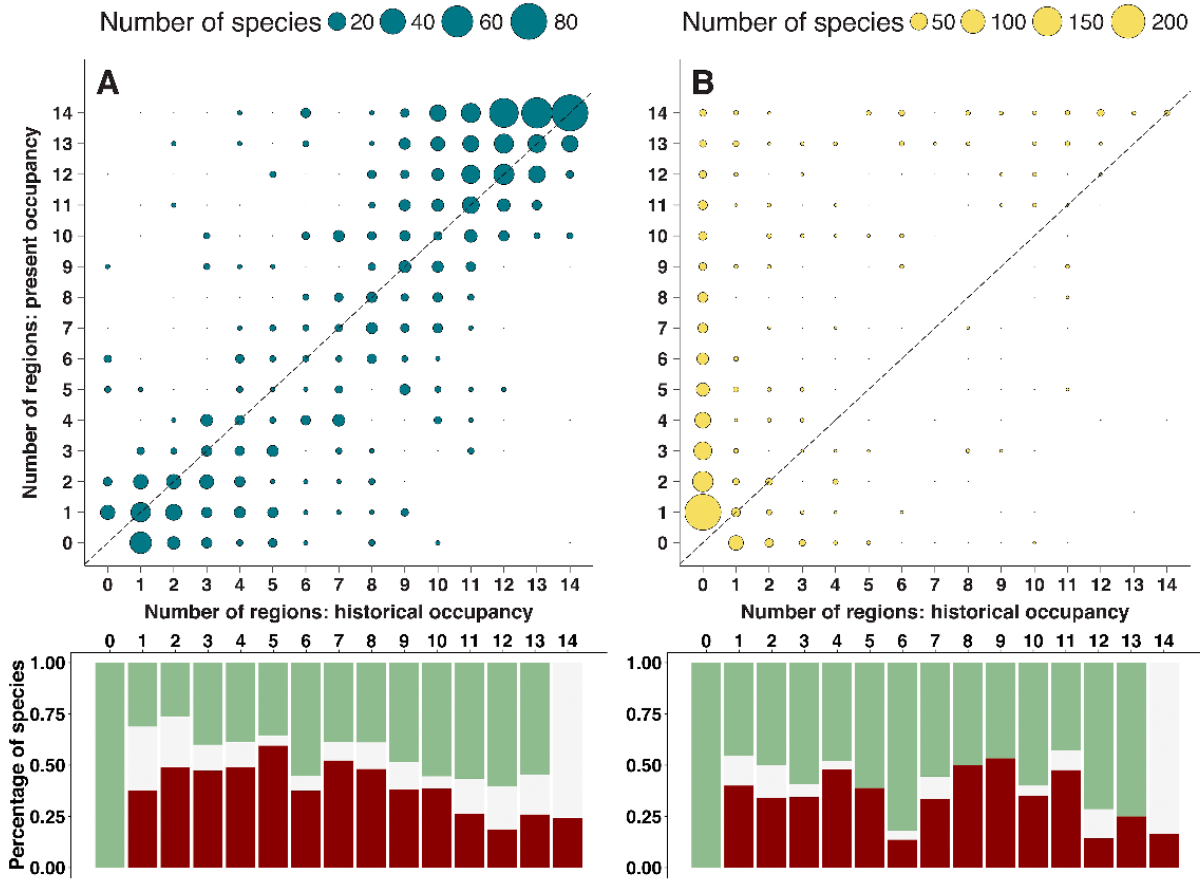
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527 **Figure 3**



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540 **Electronic Supplementary Material – Appendix 1**

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542 *For the paper: More is Less: Net Gain in Species Richness, but Biotic Homogenization over 140*  
543 *Years*544 *By: Tora Finderup Nielsen, Kaj Sand-Jensen, Maria Dornelas & Hans Henrik Bruun*

545

546 **This file includes:**

547 Supplementary Tables S1 to S6

548 Supplementary Figures S1 to S11

549

550 **Supplementary tables**

551

552 **Table S1.** *Historical landscape floras analyzed.* Details on author, area and year published as well as  
553 number of reference grid cells in present data and the number of species in historical and present data.  
554 Numbers refer to Fig. 1.

Number – Region name	Author, profession	Area	Publis hed	Regional abundan ce	Year issued	Area km <sup>2</sup>	#reference grid-cells, ref. 27	#species historical data	#species present data
2 – Als <sup>1</sup>	Petit, E., counselor	Island of Als	Yes	No	1881	312	12	713	887
8 – Anholt <sup>2</sup>	Jacobsen, J. P., novelist	Island of Anholt	Yes	No	1880	22	3	237	535
11 – Falster <sup>3</sup>	Koch, H. P. G.; provost	Island of Falster	Yes	Yes	1862	450	19	906	1058
7 – Læsø <sup>2</sup>	Jacobsen, J. P., novelist	Island of Læsø	Yes	No	1880	118	7	353	787
10 – Lolland <sup>4</sup>	Rostrup, E., professor	Island of Lolland	Yes	Yes	1864	1250	47	928	1143
12 – Møn <sup>5</sup>	Petit, E., counselor	Island of Møn	No	Yes	1883	218	14	758	954
14 – NE Zealand <sup>6</sup>	Mortensen, H., college teacher	Peninsulas between the Sound and Isefjord	Yes	Yes	1872	1816	95	1222	1643
13 – Roskilde <sup>7</sup>	Thomsen, C., lecturer	Area around the city of Roskilde	Yes	Yes	1874	312	10	949	995
6 – Samsø <sup>8</sup>	Thomsen, C., lecturer	Island of Samsø	Yes	Yes	1876	113	6	693	746

9 – SW Zealand <sup>9</sup>	Nielsen, P.	South western part of Sealand	Yes	Yes	1873	794	23	1024	1134
3 – South Funen Mainland <sup>10</sup>	Lange, M. T.; priest	Southern part of Funen	Yes	Yes	1857	210	10	834	925
5 – South Funen, forest islands <sup>10</sup>	Lange, M. T.; priest	Islands south of Funen: Langeland, Thurø, Tåsinge	Yes	Yes	1857	350	18	704	1019
4 – South Funen, non-forest islands <sup>10</sup>	Lange, M. T.; priest	Islands south of Funen: Ærø, Lyø, Avernakø, Drejø, Strynø, Skarø, Bjørnø, Birkholm	Yes	Yes	1857	110	15	587	825
1 – Tønder <sup>11</sup>	Stoltenberg, N., college teacher	Area around the town of Tønder	Yes	Yes	1877	170	6	525	707

555 <sup>1</sup>Udkast til en floristisk Beskrivelse af Als, E. Petit, 1881, Botanisk Tidsskrift 12: 13-41.

556 <sup>2</sup>Fortegnelse over de på Læsø og Anholt i 1870 fundne planter, J. C. Jacobsen, 1880, Botanisk Tidsskrift 11: 88-113.

557 <sup>3</sup>Om Falsters Vegetation, H. P. G. Koch, 1862, Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den Naturhistoriske Forening i København 1862: 79-  
558 152.

559 <sup>4</sup>Lollands Vegetationsforhold, E. Rostrup, 1864, Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den Naturhistoriske Forening i København 1864:  
560 37-119.

561 <sup>5</sup>Fortegnelse over Møens Pfanerogamer og Kryptogamer, E. Petit, manuscript kept in the Natural History Museum of Denmark,  
562 Copenhagen.

563 <sup>6</sup>Nordostsjælland's Flora, H. Mortensen, 1872, Botanisk Tidsskrift 5: 8-168.

564 <sup>7</sup>Roskilde-Egnens Flora, C. Thomsen, 1874, Indbydelsesskrift til Afgangsprøven og Aarsprøven i Roskilde Katedralskole, H.A. Müller,  
565 Roskilde

566 <sup>8</sup>Sams-Øgruppens Plantevækst, C. Thomsen, 1876, Botanisk Tidsskrift 8: 86-142.

567 <sup>9</sup>Sydvestsjælland's Vegetation, Nielsen P., 1872, Botanisk Tidsskrift 6: 261-388.

568 <sup>10</sup>Den Sydfyenske Øgaards Vegetation, M. T. Lange, 1857, Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den Naturhistoriske Forening i København  
569 1857: 199-272.

570 <sup>11</sup>Beitrag zur Kenntniß der Flora Tonderns, N. Stoltenberg, 1877, F. Dröhse Verlag, Tondern.

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577 **Table S2.** *Turnover, all species.* Appearances, disappearances and total turnover in relative and actual  
578 number of species in all 14 regions. Numbers refer to Fig. 1 and Table S1. Total number of species  
579 in historical data can be calculated per region (rows), by subtracting appearances (col. 6) from total

580 number of species (col. 5). For present data the total number of species per region can be calculated  
 581 by subtracting disappearances (col. 7) from the total number of species (col. 5).

Number - Region	Relative appearances	Relative disappearances	Relative change, total	Total number of species, both time slices	Appearances, # species	Disappearances, # species	Total changes, # species
2 - Als	0.30	0.13	0.43	1021	307	134	173
8 - Anholt	0.59	0.08	0.67	582	344	48	296
11 - Falster	0.25	0.13	0.38	1210	302	152	150
10 - Lolland	0.27	0.10	0.37	1272	342	129	213
7 - Læsø	0.52	0.03	0.55	739	385	23	362
12 - Møn	0.30	0.12	0.42	1083	324	129	195
14 - NE Zealand	0.32	0.08	0.40	1787	563	143	420
13 - Roskilde	0.20	0.16	0.36	1188	237	193	44
4 - South Funen, non-forest islands	0.37	0.12	0.49	936	349	111	238
3 - South Funen, Mainland	0.23	0.15	0.38	1088	252	163	89
5 - South Funen, forest islands	0.36	0.08	0.44	1105	400	86	314
6 - Samsø	0.21	0.15	0.37	882	187	136	51
9 - SW Zealand	0.22	0.14	0.35	1311	285	177	108
1 - Tønder	0.37	0.15	0.52	830	305	123	182
All regions as one	0.30	0.07	0.37	1958	591	136	455
Average	0.32	0.12	0.44	1074	327	125	202

582

583 **Table S3.** *Turnover, native and exotic species.* Appearances, disappearances and total change in  
 584 number of species for native and exotic species in all 14 regions, in all regions regarded as one and  
 585 as an average across regions. Numbers refer to Fig. 1 and Table S1.

Number - Region	Native Appearances, # species	Native Disappearances, # species	Native Total changes, # species	Exotic Appearances, # species	Exotic Disappearances, # species	Exotic Total changes, # species
2 - Als	92	105	-13	209	27	182
8 - Anholt	221	42	179	119	5	114
11 - Falster	58	110	-52	239	41	198
10 - Lolland	70	84	-14	264	42	222
7 - Læsø	220	16	204	161	6	155
12 - Møn	148	97	51	175	29	146
14 - NE Zealand	46	85	-39	497	52	445
13 - Roskilde	46	123	-77	189	63	126
5 - South Funen, non-forest islands	124	88	36	218	21	197
3 - South Funen Mainland	62	121	-59	187	40	147
4 - South Funen, forest islands	127	64	63	268	21	247

6 - Samsø	74	87	-13	112	47	65
9 - SW Zealand	43	112	-69	239	60	179
1 - Tønder	184	85	99	117	33	84
All regions as one	27	57	-30	547	68	479
Average	108	87	21	214	35	179

586

587 **Table S4.** *Distance in Jaccard dissimilarity within area across time.* Ordered by increasing distance.

588 Numbers refer to Fig. 1 and Table S1.

Number - Area	Jaccard dissimilarity
9 - SW Zealand	0.35
13 - Roskilde	0.36
6 - Samsø	0.36
10 - Lolland	0.37
11 - Falster	0.38
3 - South Funen Mainland	0.38
14 - NE Zealand	0.4
12 - Møn	0.42
2 - Als	0.43
4 - South Funen, forest islands	0.44
5 - South Funen, non-forest islands	0.49
1 - Tønder	0.52
7 - Læsø	0.55
8 - Anholt	0.67
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.44</b>

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599 **Table S5.** *Loser and winner species.* Species significantly associated with Historical (“losers”) and  
600 Present (“winners”) in Indicator Species Analyses. This analysis compares species’ regional  
601 abundance and frequency of occurrence at the two time slices. Each species receives an indicator

602 value (range: 0-1) for each time slice. The higher of the two values is tested for statistical significance  
 603 of the association using a permutation test (10,000 randomizations;  $\alpha < 0.05$ ). A total of 236 species  
 604 were significantly associated with present data, 50 with historical data, while 1673 not were  
 605 significantly associated with any time slice. Only the higher indicator value is shown and only species  
 606 significantly associated to either historical or present.  
 607 The number of North European countries/regions, in which the species is redlisted, Species  
 608 Conservation Index and the native status (nat = native; ex = exotic; NA = ambiguous) are given.

Species – consensus name	Indicator value	P-value	Sign.	Association	# countries redlisted	Species Conservation Index	Native status
<i>Epilobium adenocaulon</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Pedimuns spurius</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	1	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Chamomilla suaveolens</i>	0.966	1.00E-04	***	Present	1	1	ex
<i>Festuca trachyphylla</i>	0.966	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum coll.</i>	0.966	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	0.966	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Symphoricarpus albus</i>	0.966	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cerastium biebersteinii_tormentisum</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Othocallis siberica</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rosa glauca</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	1	3	ex
<i>Symphytum xuplandicum</i>	0.964	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	0.935	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	0.935	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Senecio vernalis</i>	0.935	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Alcea rosea</i>	0.929	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Fragaria grandiflora_ananassa</i>	0.929	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>	0.929	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	0.929	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	0.929	0.0002	***	Present	1	2	ex
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	0.929	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Vicia sativa segetalis</i>	0.929	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex

<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Epilobium lamyi</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Larix xmarschlinsii</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	0.926	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rheum rhubarbarum</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Tulipa gesneriana</i>	0.926	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	0.907	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	0.897	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	int
<i>Poa palustris</i>	0.897	1.00E-04	***	Present	2	3	nat
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	0.897	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	0.897	0.0003	***	Present	1	2	nat
<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	0.889	0.0004	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>	0.889	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	0.889	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cornus alba s.l.</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Hyacinthoides italica</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Leucanthemum xsuperbum</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	0.886	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Populus xberolinensis</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Pseudofumaria lutea</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	1	5	ex
<i>Scilla luciliae coll.</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Taxus xmedia</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Vulpia myurus</i>	0.886	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rumex thyrsoiflorus</i>	0.882	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Stellaria pallida</i>	0.882	0.0002	***	Present	1	4	nat
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	0.869	0.0005	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Nicandra physalodes</i>	0.869	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Pinus mugo s.l.</i>	0.869	0.0004	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	0.858	0.0007	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Picea abies</i>	0.858	0.0003	***	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Senecio viscosus</i>	0.858	0.0008	***	Present	1	2	nat
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	0.858	0.0004	***	Present	0	0	ex

<i>Vinca minor</i>	0.858	0.0004	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	0.857	0.0005	***	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Physalis alkekengi</i>	0.857	0.0004	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Chenopodium ficifolium</i>	0.849	0.0005	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	0.849	0.0004	***	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	0.849	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	0.845	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Arum italicum</i>	0.845	1.00E-04	***	Present	1	1	ex
<i>Calystegia pulchra</i>	0.845	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	0.845	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cotoneaster divaricatus</i>	0.845	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Diplotaxis muralis</i>	0.845	0.0004	***	Present	1	1	nat
<i>Doronicum xexcesum</i>	0.845	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Forsythia xintermedia</i>	0.845	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Phytolacca acinosa</i>	0.845	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Picea glauca</i>	0.845	0.0003	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Ulmus xhollandica</i>	0.845	1.00E-04	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Zea mays</i>	0.845	0.0003	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	0.843	0.0011	**	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	0.843	0.0013	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	0.843	0.0014	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rosa dumalis</i>	0.843	0.0016	**	Present	2	4	nat
<i>Sedum album</i>	0.843	0.0018	**	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	0.828	0.0014	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	0.828	0.0016	**	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Salix daphnoides s.l.</i>	0.828	0.0021	**	Present	3	9	ex
<i>Galium xpomeranicum</i>	0.819	0.0043	**	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	0.819	0.0047	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	0.815	0.0018	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	0.815	0.0024	**	Present	4	12	nat
<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	0.815	0.0018	**	Present	1	2	ex
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	0.815	0.0016	**	Present	4	10	nat
<i>Telekia speciosa</i>	0.815	0.0015	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rorippa microphylla</i>	0.806	0.002	**	Present	3	10	nat
<i>Amelanchier spicata</i>	0.802	0.0007	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Bromopsis inermis</i>	0.802	0.0006	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Centaurea dealbata</i>	0.802	0.0005	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Dipsacus strigosus</i>	0.802	0.0005	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	0.802	0.0007	***	Present	1	3	ex
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	0.802	0.0008	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	0.802	0.0002	***	Present	0	0	nat

<i>Laburnum alpinum</i>	0.802	0.0005	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	0.802	0.0005	***	Present	1	1	ex
<i>Mahonia xdecumbens</i>	0.802	0.0006	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	0.802	0.0004	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Symphoricarpos xchenaultii</i>	0.802	0.0005	***	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Beta vulgaris maritima</i>	0.786	0.0073	**	Present	1	2	nat
<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>	0.786	0.0071	**	Present	1	1	nat
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	0.772	0.0061	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	0.772	0.0064	**	Present	2	3	ex
<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	0.772	0.0045	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	0.772	0.0062	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	0.761	0.0039	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Setaria pumila</i>	0.761	0.0047	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Viola xwittrockiana</i>	0.761	0.0038	**	Present	1	1	ex
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	0.759	0.0215	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Juglans regia</i>	0.759	0.0212	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	0.759	0.0194	*	Present	6	15	nat
<i>Abies procera</i>	0.756	0.0024	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	0.756	0.0012	**	Present	1	2	ex
<i>Barbarea intermedia</i>	0.756	0.0025	**	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	0.756	0.0022	**	Present	1	1	ex
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	0.756	0.0023	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>	0.756	0.0015	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Helianthus xlaetiflorus</i>	0.756	0.0018	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i>	0.756	0.0012	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Iberis umbellata</i>	0.756	0.0023	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	0.756	0.0021	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Petasites japonicus</i>	0.756	0.0026	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Phalaris arundinacea cult.</i>	0.756	0.0016	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Populus xwettsteinii</i>	0.756	0.0014	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	0.756	0.002	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	0.756	0.002	**	Present	1	2	ex
<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	0.756	0.0017	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Vinca major</i>	0.756	0.0012	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Atriplex longipes</i>	0.741	0.0205	*	Present	1	3	nat
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	0.741	0.0185	*	Present	1	2	ex
<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	0.741	0.0225	*	Present	3	9	ex
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	0.741	0.0216	*	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	0.741	0.0203	*	Present	0	0	nat
<i>Veronica longifolia</i>	0.741	0.0215	*	Present	3	6	ex
<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	0.725	0.0173	*	Present	0	0	ex



<i>Crocus vernus</i>	0.725	0.0171	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	0.725	0.0187	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	0.725	0.0176	*	Present	0	0	NA
<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>	0.713	0.0123	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Abies grandis</i>	0.707	0.0048	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Abies nordmanniana</i>	0.707	0.0058	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Aconitum xstoerkianum</i>	0.707	0.0048	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	0.707	0.0052	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>	0.707	0.0055	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cotoneaster dielsianus</i>	0.707	0.0055	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Echinops bannaticus</i>	0.707	0.0065	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	0.707	0.0059	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lonicera pileata</i>	0.707	0.0057	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Malus toringo sargentii</i>	0.707	0.0053	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Othocallis amoena</i>	0.707	0.0056	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	0.707	0.0065	**	Present	4	9	nat
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	0.707	0.0052	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rosa rubiginosa cult.</i>	0.707	0.0052	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i>	0.707	0.0055	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Symphytum caucasicum</i>	0.707	0.0059	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	0.707	0.0055	**	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Stellaria neglecta</i>	0.694	0.0499	*	Present	2	3	nat
<i>Cerastium glutinosum</i>	0.676	0.0444	*	Present	2	5	nat
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	0.676	0.0434	*	Present	1	1	ex
<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	0.655	0.0171	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Anemone blanda</i>	0.655	0.0144	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Arenaria leptocladus</i>	0.655	0.0157	*	Present	1	4	nat
<i>Aubrieta xcultorum</i>	0.655	0.0155	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	0.655	0.0158	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	0.655	0.0158	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Crataegus rhipidophylla</i>	0.655	0.0159	*	Present	1	5	nat
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	0.655	0.0158	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Diploxaxis tenuifolia</i>	0.655	0.0145	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Echinops exaltatus</i>	0.655	0.0161	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	0.655	0.0146	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Fragaria vesca cult.</i>	0.655	0.0145	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	0.655	0.0152	*	Present	1	2	ex
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	0.655	0.0141	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lychnis chalcedonica</i>	0.655	0.0143	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Malus prunifolia</i>	0.655	0.0144	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>	0.655	0.0166	*	Present	0	0	ex

<i>Pinus contorta</i>	0.655	0.016	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>	0.655	0.0147	*	Present	5	10	nat
<i>Puschkinia scilloides</i>	0.655	0.0152	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	0.655	0.0182	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	0.655	0.0147	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	0.655	0.0158	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	0.655	0.0161	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	0.655	0.0159	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	0.655	0.0144	*	Present	2	2	ex
<i>Allium hollandicum</i>	0.598	0.0375	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	0.598	0.0402	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	0.598	0.0419	*	Present	1	1	ex
<i>Aster xversicolor</i>	0.598	0.0412	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Bergenia cordifolia coll.</i>	0.598	0.0389	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Carex pendula</i>	0.598	0.0402	*	Present	2	6	nat
<i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	0.598	0.0392	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	0.598	0.0447	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Cotoneaster lucidus</i>	0.598	0.0366	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Crocus xstellaris</i>	0.598	0.0406	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Dicentra formosa</i>	0.598	0.0412	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	0.598	0.039	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Eruca vesicaria sativa</i>	0.598	0.0362	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Eryngium planum</i>	0.598	0.0402	*	Present	1	4	ex
<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	0.598	0.0383	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	0.598	0.0415	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	0.598	0.0416	*	Present	1	2	nat
<i>Papaver setiferum</i>	0.598	0.0413	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	0.598	0.0399	*	Present	1	3	ex
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	0.598	0.0429	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	0.598	0.0375	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Potentilla indica</i>	0.598	0.0384	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	0.598	0.0403	*	Present	1	3	ex
<i>Pulmonaria rubra</i>	0.598	0.0412	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Rosa spinosissima cult.</i>	0.598	0.0406	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Sedum forsterianum</i>	0.598	0.0377	*	Present	1	3	ex
<i>Setaria italica</i>	0.598	0.0399	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Spinacia oleracea</i>	0.598	0.0429	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	0.598	0.0396	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Symphytum grandiflorum</i>	0.598	0.0415	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Tagetes patula</i>	0.598	0.0399	*	Present	0	0	ex
<i>Verbascum speciosum</i>	0.598	0.0402	*	Present	0	0	ex

<i>Veronica scutellata</i>	0.935	1.00E-04	***	Historical	2	2	nat
<i>Camelina sativa</i>	0.929	1.00E-04	***	Historical	2	7	nat
<i>Lolium temulentum</i>	0.886	1.00E-04	***	Historical	6	24	nat
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	0.882	0.0002	***	Historical	5	19	nat
<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	0.882	0.0002	***	Historical	5	18	nat
<i>Camelina alyssum</i>	0.845	0.0003	***	Historical	5	25	ex
<i>Lolium remotum</i>	0.845	0.0003	***	Historical	6	30	ex
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	0.845	0.0002	***	Historical	6	21	nat
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	0.828	0.0017	**	Historical	5	15	nat
<i>Fagopyrum tataricum</i>	0.806	0.0016	**	Historical	1	5	ex
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>	0.802	0.0075	**	Historical	5	15	nat
<i>Cuscuta epithymum trifolii</i>	0.802	0.0007	***	Historical	0	0	ex
<i>Lythrum portula</i>	0.802	0.0061	**	Historical	2	3	nat
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	0.786	0.0077	**	Historical	5	16	nat
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	0.786	0.008	**	Historical	7	15	nat
<i>Galeopsis ladanum</i>	0.786	0.0094	**	Historical	4	8	nat
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	0.761	0.0045	**	Historical	6	15	nat
<i>Chenopodium urbicum</i>	0.761	0.0048	**	Historical	4	15	nat
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	0.761	0.0053	**	Historical	2	3	nat
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	0.761	0.0052	**	Historical	8	27	nat
<i>Veronica opaca</i>	0.761	0.0039	**	Historical	5	19	nat
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	0.759	0.0229	*	Historical	6	20	nat
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	0.759	0.0201	*	Historical	3	7	nat
<i>Cuscuta epilinum</i>	0.756	0.0024	**	Historical	5	25	ex
<i>Neslia paniculata</i>	0.756	0.002	**	Historical	2	6	nat
<i>Pulicaria vulgaris</i>	0.756	0.0018	**	Historical	6	24	nat
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	0.756	0.0021	**	Historical	0	0	nat
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	0.741	0.0219	*	Historical	1	2	ex
<i>Veronica triphyllos</i>	0.741	0.0225	*	Historical	5	14	nat
<i>Eriophorum latifolium</i>	0.725	0.0194	*	Historical	6	19	nat
<i>Ranunculus circinatus</i>	0.713	0.0147	*	Historical	2	7	nat
<i>Avena strigosa</i>	0.707	0.0056	**	Historical	2	10	ex
<i>Medicago lupulina willdenowii</i>	0.707	0.0061	**	Historical	0	0	nat
<i>Larix decidua</i>	0.676	0.0465	*	Historical	0	0	ex
<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	0.676	0.0465	*	Historical	4	7	nat
<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	0.676	0.049	*	Historical	4	9	nat
<i>Potamogeton alpinus</i>	0.676	0.0449	*	Historical	6	17	nat
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	0.661	0.0318	*	Historical	2	7	nat
<i>Herminium monorchis</i>	0.661	0.0338	*	Historical	8	29	nat
<i>Arnoseria minima</i>	0.655	0.0139	*	Historical	7	27	nat
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	0.655	0.0142	*	Historical	2	5	nat

<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	0.655	0.0167	*	Historical	7	21	nat
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	0.598	0.0401	*	Historical	2	2	nat
<i>Crepis setosa</i>	0.598	0.0411	*	Historical	1	4	ex
<i>Elsholtzia cristata</i>	0.598	0.0419	*	Historical	0	0	ex
<i>Filago lutescens</i>	0.598	0.0399	*	Historical	7	27	nat
<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>	0.598	0.0409	*	Historical	6	26	nat
<i>Persicaria mitis</i>	0.598	0.0382	*	Historical	2	4	nat
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	0.598	0.0405	*	Historical	8	30	nat
<i>Spergula arvensis maxima</i>	0.598	0.0445	*	Historical	3	15	ex

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611 **Table S6.** *Summary statistics loser and winner species.* Numbers and proportion of species being  
 612 winners, stable and losers (identified by Indicator Species Analyses) in categories of a “species  
 613 conservation index”, which is based on red-list threat category in nine neighboring North European  
 614 countries and provinces.

									Total Red Listed (NT-RE)	Median Species Conservation Index	
	0		1-10		11-20		21-30		No. Sp.	Prop.	
	No. Sp.	Prop. of species in association	No. Sp.	Prop.	No. Sp.	Prop.	No. Sp.	Prop.	No. Sp.	Prop.	
<b>Sign_Present</b>	190	0.81	44	0.19	2	0.01	0	0.00	<b>46</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>No_Assoc</b>	831	0.50	640	0.38	170	0.10	29	0.02	<b>839</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sign_Historical</b>	50	0.10	18	0.36	14	0.28	13	0.26	<b>45</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>15</b>

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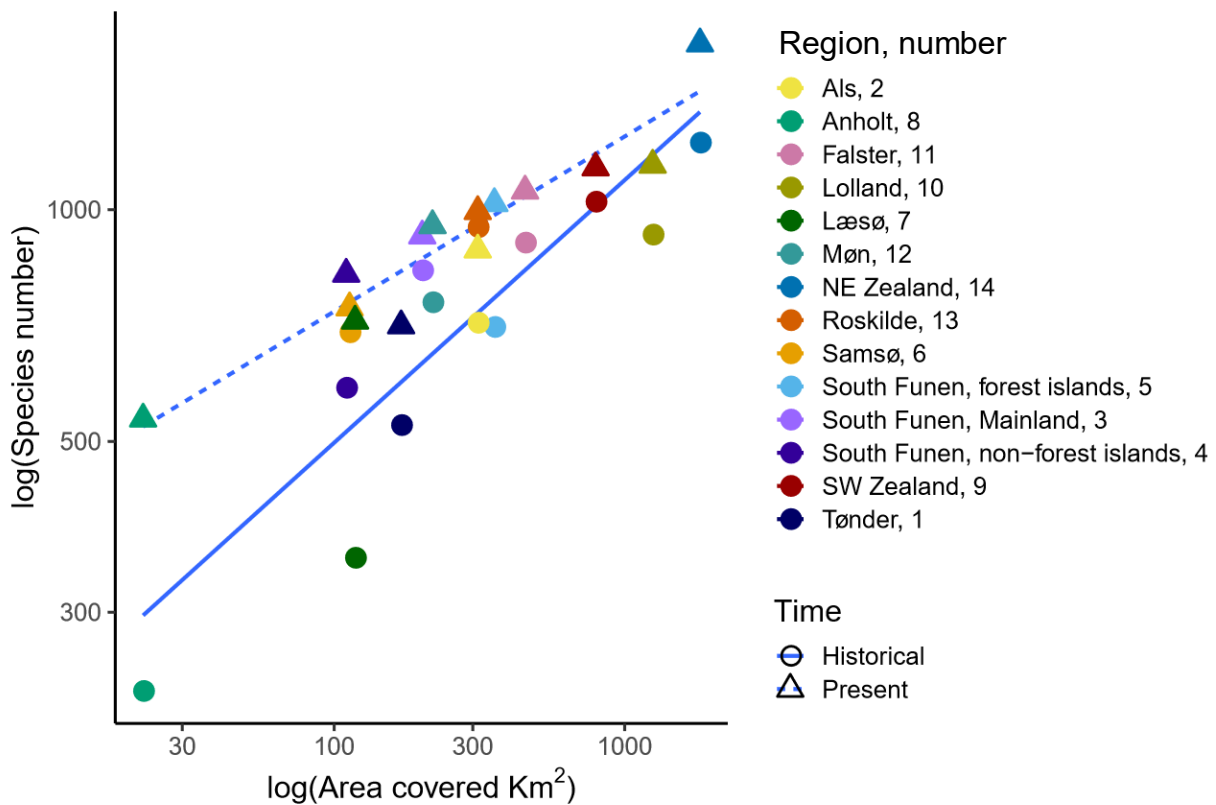
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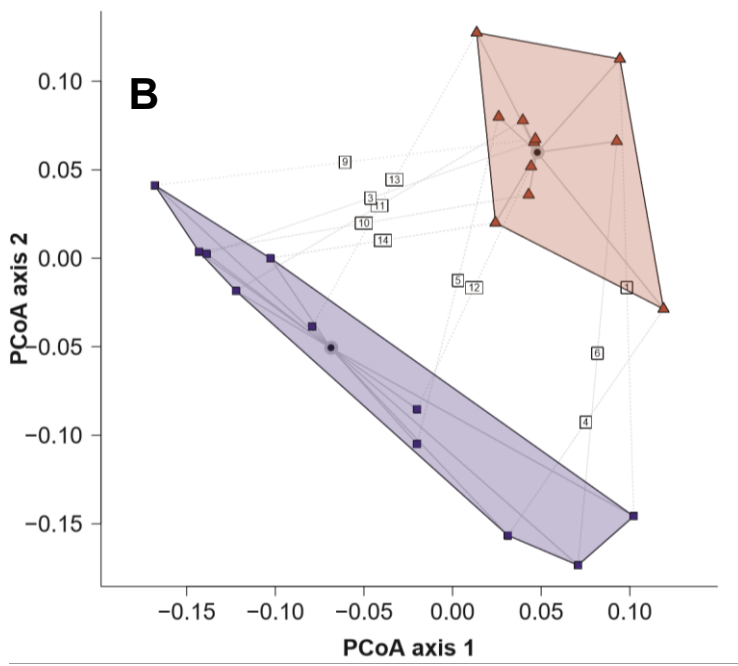
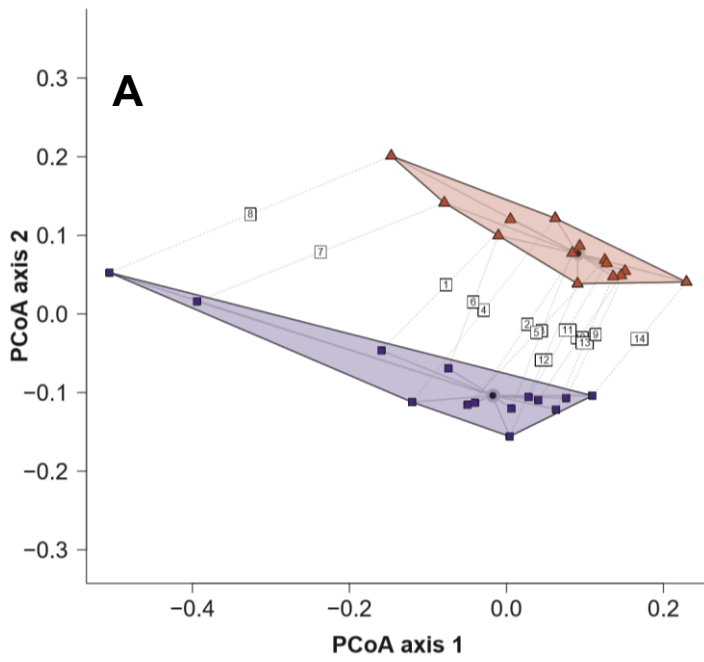
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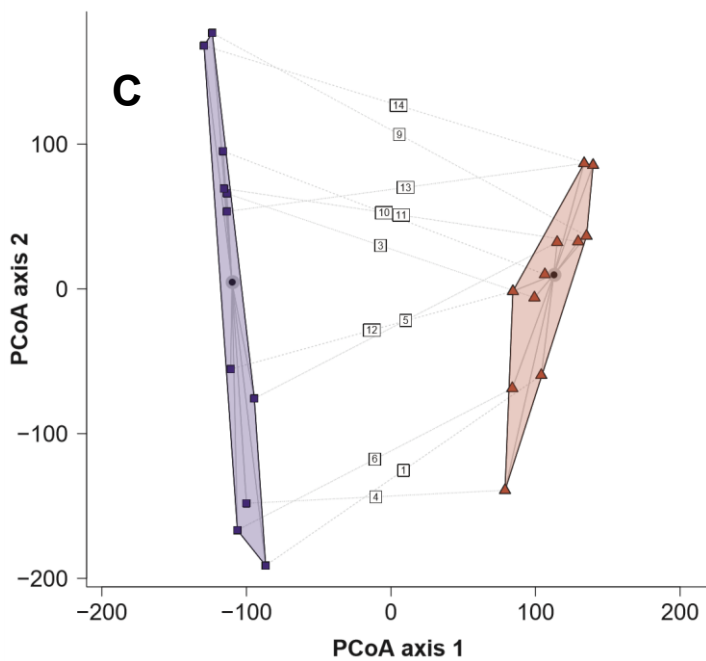
## Supplementary figures



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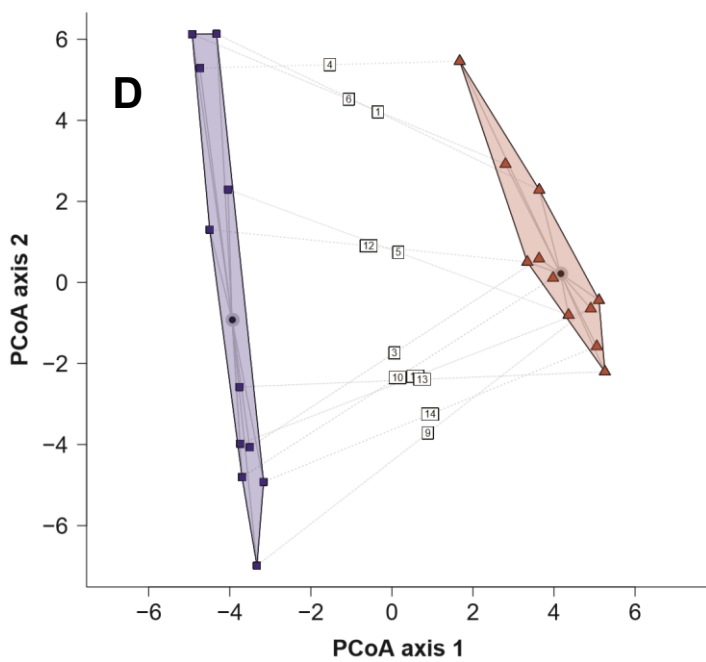
**Figure S1.** *Species richness as a function of area.* 14 Danish regions, historical (1857-81, circles) and present survey (2012, triangles). Axes are  $\log_{10}$  transformed. Linear regressions are:  $y = 0.3928x + 570$  (historical survey, solid line) and  $y = 0.4727x + 738$  (contemporary survey, dashed line) (non-log-transformed equations). Colours and numbers refer to Fig. 1.





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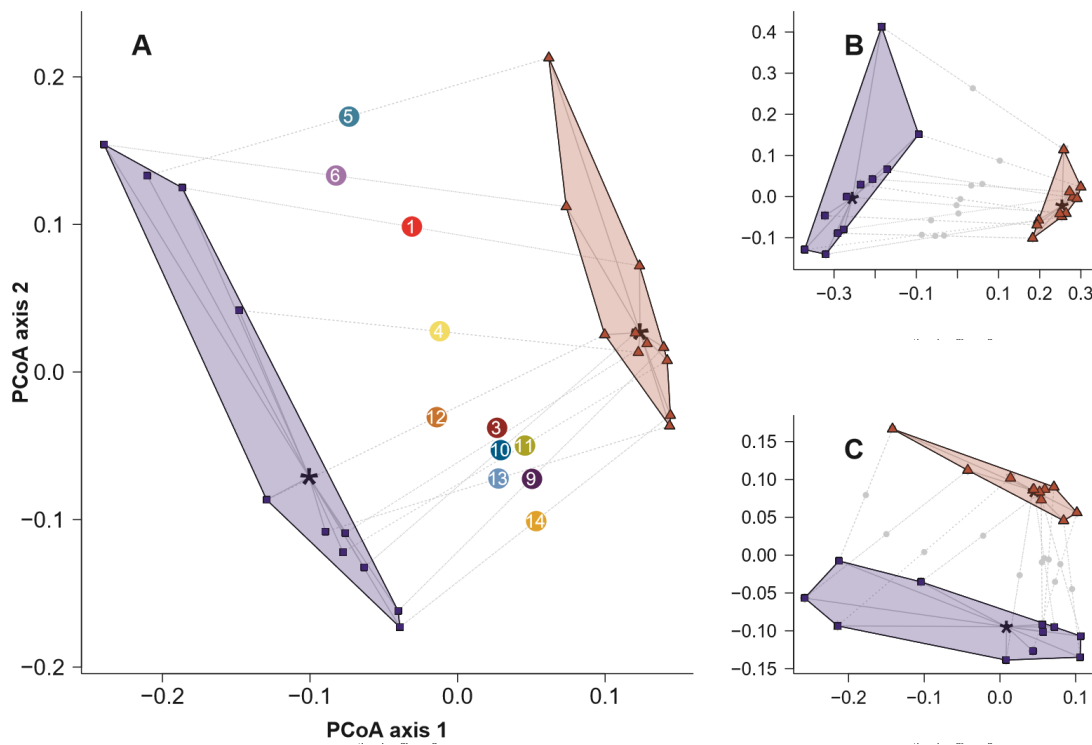
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655 **Figure S2 A-D.** *PCoAs of alternative beta-diversity measures.* Measured as: A) Sørensen  
 656 dissimilarity; B) AltGower dissimilarity; C) Manhattan dissimilarity; D) Euclidian dissimilarity.  
 657 Sørensen dissimilarity is calculated on presence/absence data (14 regions) other measures on  
 658 abundance data from 11 regions. Blue squares are historical regional data and red triangles present  
 659 data. Dotted lines are drawn between identical regions in historical and present data and numbers  
 660 refer to regions in Fig. 1 and Table S1. A polygon is drawn around each time-period (historical =

661 blue, present = red) and centroids for each time-period marked as a filled circle, full grey lines mark  
 662 the distance from each region to the spatial median of each time-period. PERMANOVA,  $p < 0.001$   
 663 for all measures. For a comparison of distance to spatial median, see figure S7.  
 664



665  
 666 **Figure S3 A-C.** Change in species composition over 140 years in 11 Danish regions measured as  
 667 *Bray-Curtis dissimilarity*. A) All species, B) Only exotic species, C) Only native species. Blue  
 668 squares are regions in historical data and red triangles in present data. Dotted lines are drawn between  
 669 identical regions in historical and present data and numbers refer to regions in Fig. 1 and Table S1  
 670 (Region number 2, 7 and 8 are not included as abundance data in historical sources were not satisfying  
 671 for these regions). Polygons are drawn around each time-period (historical = blue, present = red) and  
 672 centroids for each time-period marked as a asterisks, full grey lines mark the distance from each  
 673 region to the centroid of each time-period. Historical species composition (1857-1883) are  
 674 significantly different from the contemporary species composition (2012) in all three panels  
 675 (PERMANOVAs: A)  $p < 0.001$ ; B)  $p < 0.001$ ; C)  $p < 0.01$ ). Relative eigenvalues of PCoA axis 1 (1)  
 676 and PCoA axis 2 (2): A) 1=0.29, 2=0.2; B) 1=0.49, 2=0.1; C) 1=0.26, 2=0.2. For a comparison of  
 677 distance to spatial median in all panels, see figure S6.  
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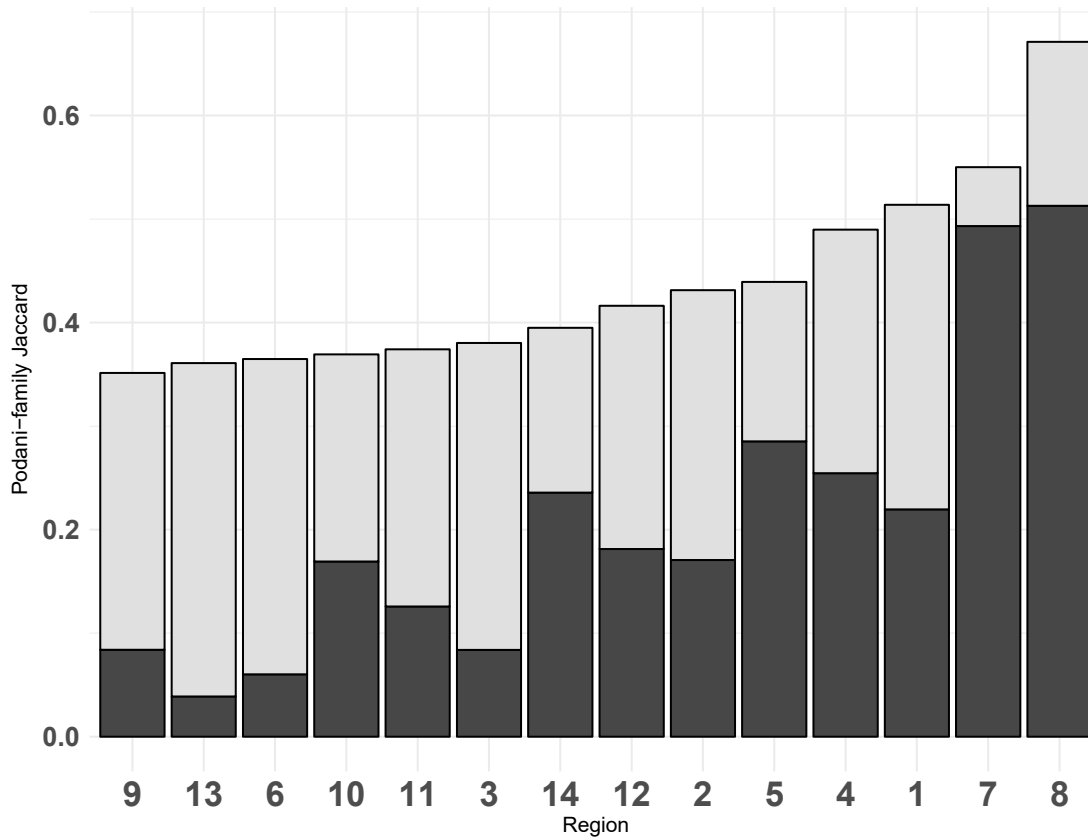


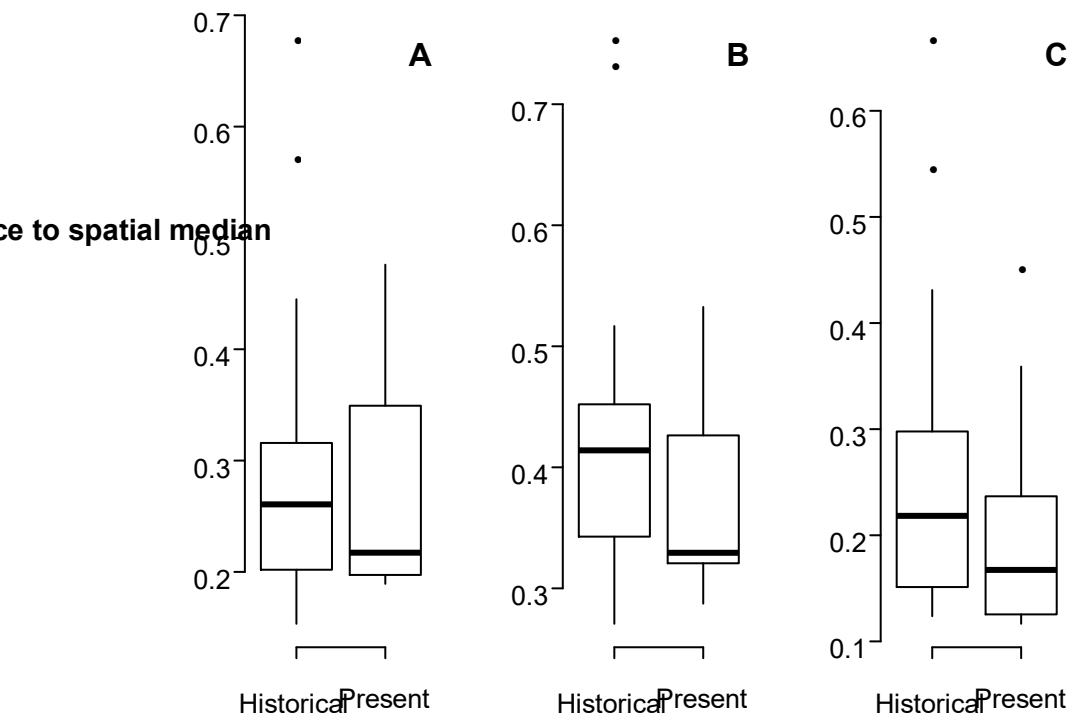
Figure S4.

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680 *Podani-family partitioning of Jaccard dissimilarity into replacement and richness.* Region numbers  
 681 follow Fig. 1 and Table 1. Regions are ordered by increasing Jaccard dissimilarity. Light grey =  
 682 replacement, dark grey = species richness. Mean proportion of Jaccard dissimilarity for all regions  
 683 except 7 & 8: Replacement = 0.248, Richness = 0.159; for region 7 & 8: Replacement = 0.108,  
 684 Richness = 0.503.

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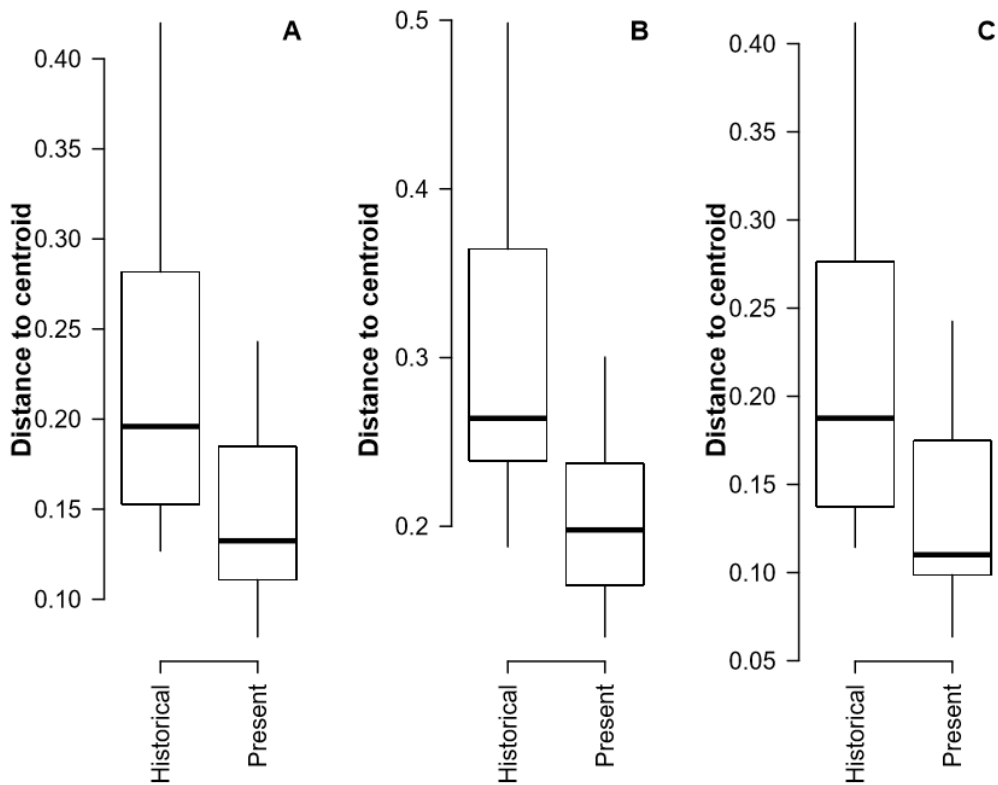
688 **Figure S5 A-C.** Homogenization for Jaccard dissimilarity measured as distance to historical and  
689 present spatial median. A) All species, B) Only exotic species, C) Only native species. Corresponding  
690 PCoA is Fig. 2.

691 ANOVA between times: A:  $p > 0.05$ ; B:  $p > 0.05$ ; C:  $p > 0.05$ .

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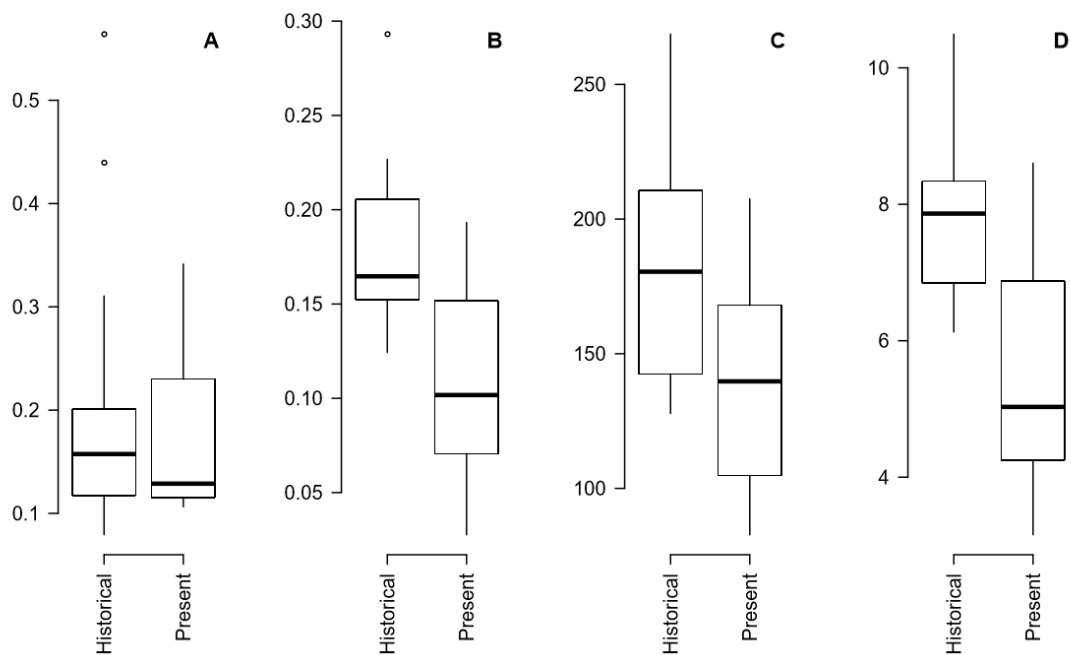
696 **Figure S6 A-C.** Homogenization for Bray-Curtis dissimilarity measured as distance to historical and  
697 present spatial median. A) All species, B) Only exotic species, C) Only native species. Corresponding  
698 PCoA is Fig. S3.

699 ANOVA between times: A:  $p < 0.05$ ; B:  $p < 0.01$ ; C:  $p < 0.05$ .

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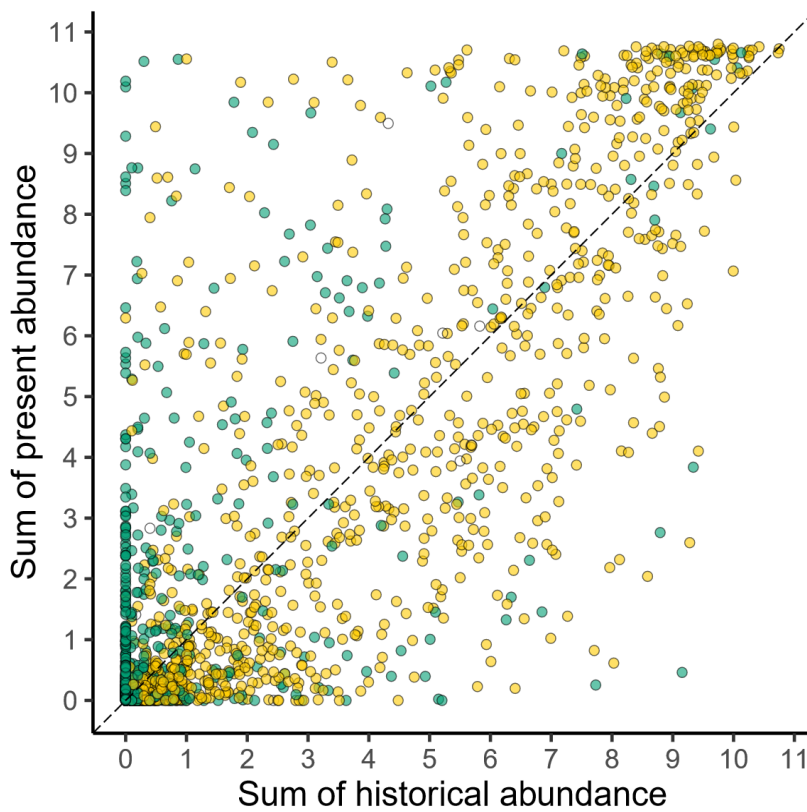


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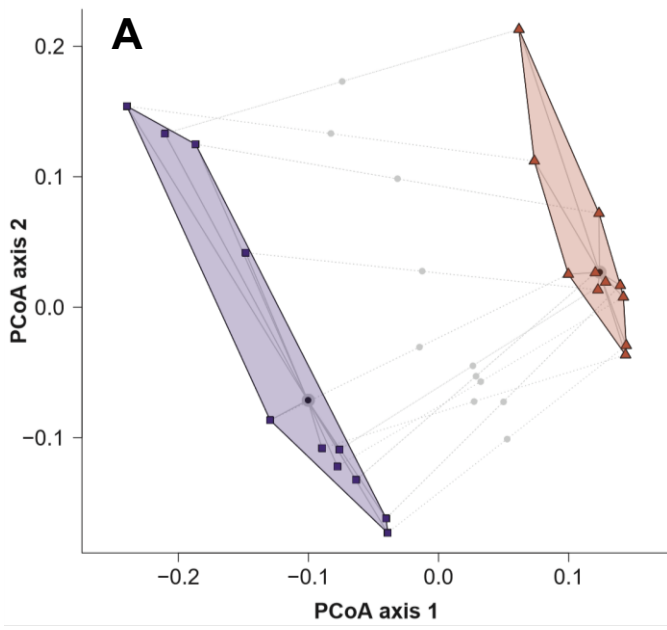
704 **A-D.** Homogenization measured as distance to historical and present spatial median for four  
 705 dissimilarity measures of beta-diversity. Based on presence-absence data from 14 regions: A)  
 706 Sørensen dissimilarity and abundance data from 11 regions: B) AltGower; C) Manhattan; D)  
 707 Euclidian dissimilarity. Corresponding PCoA is Fig S2 A-D. ANOVA between times: A)  $p > 0.05$ ;  
 708 B)  $p < 0.01$ ; C)  $p < 0.05$  ; D)  $p < 0.01$ .

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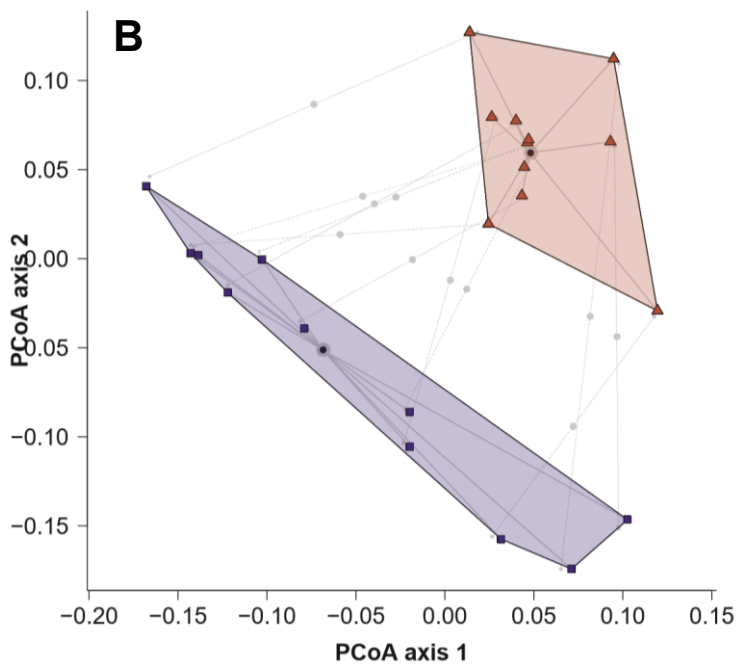
**Figure S7**



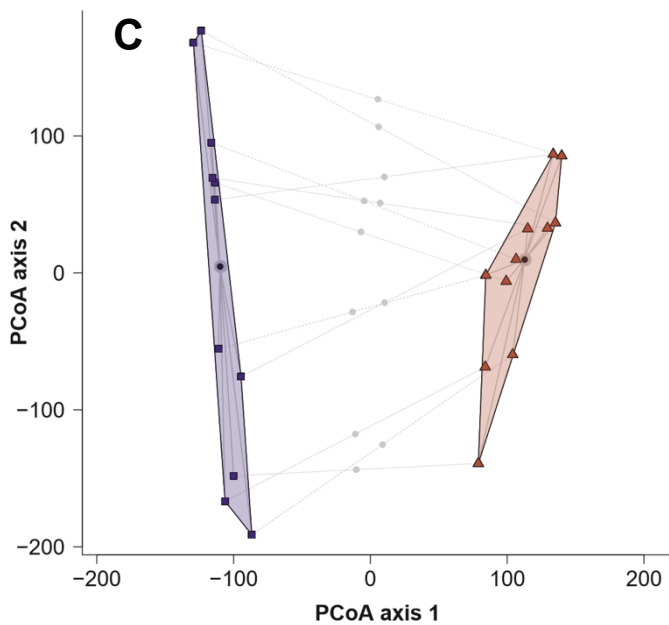
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711 **Fig. S8.** *Sum of historical regional abundance (x-axis) versus present regional abundance (y-axis)*  
712 *for 11 regions.* Green dots indicate exotic species, yellow dots native species and white dots species  
713 with no origin assigned (NAs). Dashed black 1:1 line denotes no change. As regional abundance is  
714 between 0-1 the maximum value within a region is 1 and hence 11 on both axis indicate maximum  
715 abundance in all regions.  
716



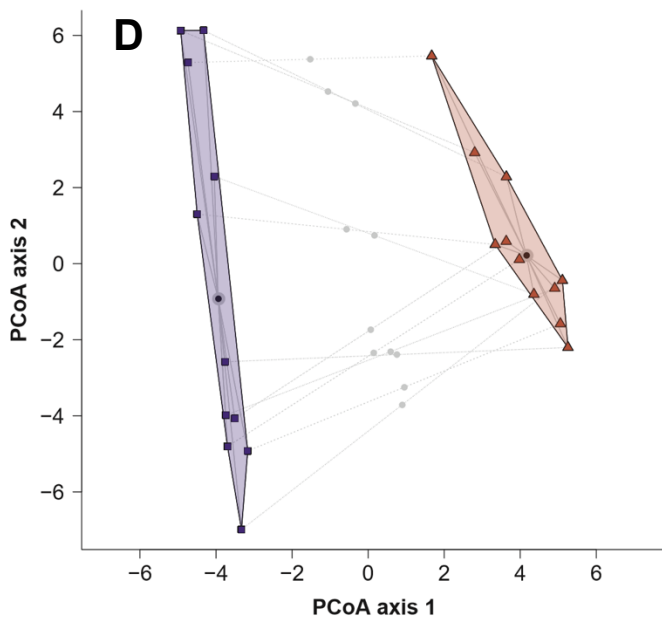
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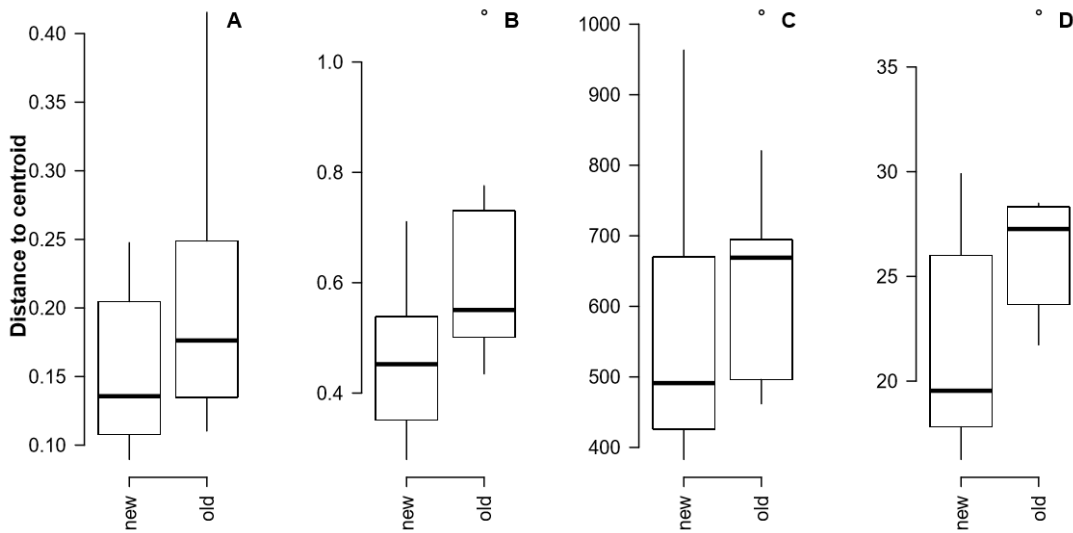
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721 **Figure S9 A-D.** *Three abundance categories.* PCoAs of beta-diversity measures based on three  
 722 abundance categories. Measured as: A) Bray-Curtis dissimilarity; B) AltGower dissimilarity; C)  
 723 Manhattan dissimilarity; (C), D) Euclidian dissimilarity. Based on abundance data in three categories  
 724 from 11 regions. Blue squares are historical regional data and red triangles present data. Dotted lines  
 725 are drawn between identical regions in historical and present data. Polygons are drawn around each  
 726 time-period (historical = blue, present = red) and centroids for each time-period marked as a circle,  
 727 full grey lines mark the distance from each region to the spatial median of each time-period.  
 728 PERMANOVA,  $p < 0.05$  for B and D, A and C  $p > 0.1$ . For a comparison of distance to spatial  
 729 median, see figure S10.

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**Figure S10**

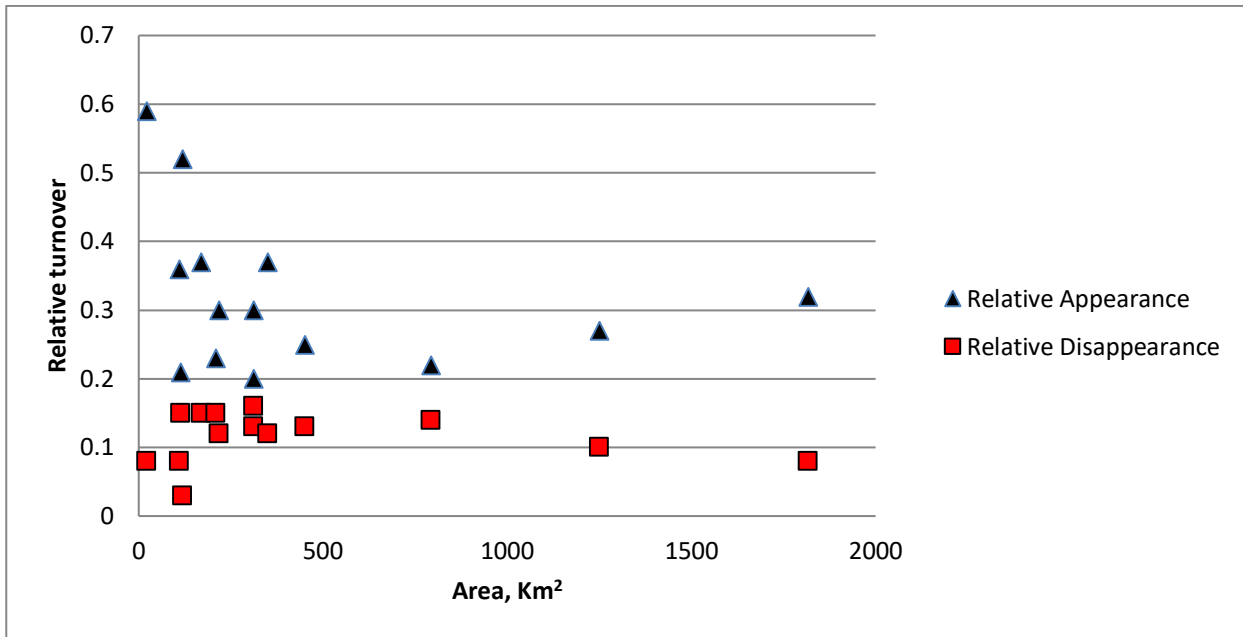
734 **A-D.** *Three abundance categories.* Homogenization measured as distance to historical and present  
 735 spatial median for four dissimilarity measures of beta-diversity, based on three abundance categories.  
 736 Abundance data in three categories from 11 regions: A) Bray-Curtis; B) AltGower; C) Manhattan;  
 737 D) Euclidian.

738 ANOVA between times: A:  $p > 0.1$ ; B:  $p < 0.05$ ; C:  $p > 0.1$ ; D:  $p < 0.05$ .

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742 **Figure S11.** *Relative turnover related to area of regions.* Relative turnover in appearance and  
743 disappearance (number of species appearing or disappearing / total number of species at both time  
744 slices) related to area of regions in 14 regions over 140 years.

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## 758 Electronic Supplementary Material – Appendix 2

759

760 *For the paper: More is Less: Net Gain in Species Richness, but Biotic Homogenization over*  
761 *140 Years*

762 *By: Tora Finderup Nielsen, Kaj Sand-Jensen, Maria Dornelas & Hans Henrik Bruun*

763

### 764 **This file includes:**

765 Supplementary Materials and Methods

766 Supplementary Tables S7 and S8

767 Supplementary Figures S12 to S16

768

769

### 770 **Method details**

771 *Data collection and preparation*

772 *Spatially matching historical and present data*

773 Historical and present species data were obtained using methods that were fundamentally similar and  
774 which share an overarching goal, i.e. using strategic expert search to obtain an exhaustively list of  
775 species for an area. In addition, the modern survey aimed at assessing species' occurrence in each  
776 grid cell, and therefore differ from the historical survey in details of the methodology. It is important  
777 to make the distinction between a survey's ability to i) produce a presence-absence list of species for  
778 a region, and ii) to produce an accurate assessment of species' regional abundance. The  
779 methodological differences between the historical and recent surveys used for our analyses are of  
780 little or no importance to the former, but with some consideration to be made for the latter (see below).  
781 In the historical data, species were recorded either as presence/absence only or presence/absence  
782 amended with regional abundance within an explicitly delimited area (example: yellow line in Fig.  
783 S13). In the present data, species presences were recorded in grid cells of 5 × 5 km. Grid cells were  
784 either "reference cells", in which the aim was to record all species and the resulting data therefore are  
785 presence/absence, or "non-reference cells", in which only noteworthy species were recorded and the  
786 resulting data presence-only (Fig. S13).

787 Regions covered by historical data were in the present data covered by between 3 and 95 reference  
788 grid cells, depending on their areal extent. When spatially aligning present data to historical regions,

789 present grid cells were assigned to an historical region if more than half of the land area in the grid  
790 cell was part of the historical region (see example in Fig. S13). As input to calculations of species  
791 appearance, disappearance or continued presence per region, we used complete historical species lists  
792 and present species lists from reference and non-reference grid cells together (Fig. S13, red and blue  
793 cells). For comparison of regional abundance – see below.

794

#### 795 *Sampling effort and detectability*

796 Comparable detectability is important to assure, when comparing species records from two different  
797 times, as differences can lead to pseudo turnover (Nilsson, I.N. & Nilsson, S.G. (1985). Experimental  
798 estimates of census efficiency and pseudoturnover on islands: error trend and between-observer  
799 variation when recording vascular plants. *J. Ecol.*, 73, 65-70). Undoubtedly, considerably more  
800 person-hours were spent in each region searching for plant occurrences in the recent than in the  
801 historical surveys. However, the vast majority of the extra search effort was spent on establishing  
802 species' occupancy, i.e. their presence or absence across many grid cells, and a minor part spent on  
803 establishing the total species list of the region. Therefore, species detection probability on the level  
804 of regions was comparable between the two surveys. This may be substantiated using the accounts  
805 on species' distribution in Denmark, published 1931-1980 in a long series of papers in Danish under  
806 the title Topographical-Botanical Investigation of Denmark (for an overview, see Vestergaard, P. &  
807 Hansen, K. (1989). *Distribution of Vascular Plants in Denmark*. *Opera Botanica*, 96, 1-163). From  
808 these accounts, we may be quite sure that plant species, which we have found to have increased in  
809 occupancy across regions and/or in abundance within regions, were either absent or rare in our study  
810 regions up to a point in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It has, however, not been possible to use this series for  
811 quantitative comparison of changes in plant diversity, as all published distribution maps contain a  
812 level of subjective expert judgement by the authors.

813

#### 814 *Standardization of taxonomy and nomenclature*

815 Plant taxonomy and nomenclature were meticulously standardized. Most infraspecific taxa were  
816 lumped at the species level, unless we were certain that names had been used consistently through  
817 time. Some critical taxa were pooled at genus level (e.g. *Callitriche*, *Alchemilla*, *Euphrasia* and  
818 *Taraxacum*) or at the level of sections (*Rubus* and *Hieracium*).

819

#### 820 *Taxa excluded*

821 *Hybrids*: Primary hybrids were excluded from both historical and present data, while hybridogenous  
822 taxa forming viable populations, e.g. *Symphytum xuplandicum*, and complex cultivars, e.g.  
823 *Doronicum xexcelsum*, were kept. In total for both time periods, 160 hybrid taxa were excluded from  
824 the data.

825 *Unconfirmed historical records*: From historical data, species were excluded if they were not trusted  
826 to be present in the region at the time of the completion of the historical flora. For example, some of  
827 the historical floras include older records, which the author of the flora explicitly mentions as not  
828 extant. In total, 26 species were excluded from historical data based on this information.

829 *Uncertain nomenclature*: Species with uncertain circumscription or nomenclature through time were  
830 excluded from analyses. This was done in order to minimize the effect of false  
831 appearances/disappearances due to inconsistent species delimitation through time. In total, 29 species  
832 with uncertain nomenclature were excluded.

833 Furthermore, in the historical data, 10 species were only recorded at the genus level. To avoid false  
834 appearances, all species of the relevant genus recorded in the present data from that region were  
835 considered as present historically, except for species known only to have been absent from Denmark  
836 entirely at the time of completion of the historical floras.

837

838 *Only wild plants*

839 In both historical and present data, only species recorded outside gardens and other cultivated settings  
840 were recorded, i.e. archaeophytes, naturalized neophytes, arable weeds and haphazard garden escapes  
841 to the wild. Thus, cultivated species were included in the dataset, but only when they are found in the  
842 wild. For present data, the explicit instruction to recorders in the Atlas Flora Danica survey was to  
843 only include wild species, meaning autochthonous populations outside cultivation. For historical data,  
844 the objective was the same, to record wild and naturalized species within a specific region. A  
845 representative example is Mortensen, 1872, pp. 60, who states that his flora is (translated from  
846 Danish): "An inventory of the wild and naturalized species found in North East Zealand".

847 *Regional abundance – calculation and standardization*

848 *Historical data*

849 Regional abundance was specified in 11 out of the 14 historical floras. Species were in general  
850 assigned abundance scores on an ordinal scale from "very rare" to "very common" (or similar) within  
851 the survey region. For rare species, however, a list of named occurrence locations was given (example  
852 in Fig. S12). Some species had assigned both an abundance category and a list of sites. These dual

853 species records allowed us to estimate the number of occurrence sites that would correspond to a  
 854 given abundance category. It was found, invariably across historical floras, that the number of  
 855 occurrences listed increased as expected from the lowest abundance category (“very rare” and “rare”)  
 856 to intermediate categories (e.g. “here and there”), but leveled out or decreased for the higher  
 857 abundance categories (e.g. “very common”). We interpret this as follows: the number of sites noted  
 858 for the lower abundance categories corresponds well to the actual number of occurrence sites for a  
 859 given species (thus, the list of sites is exhaustive), whereas for species in the higher categories, named  
 860 sites are merely given as examples. For each species only listed with a number of sites, the abundance  
 861 category estimated by the described relation was used (example in Fig. S14). Thus, a common ordinal  
 862 abundance scale for all species within a region, common and rare species alike, was thus obtained, as  
 863 shown in Table S7. Patterns of numbers of species per abundance class roughly follows the expected  
 864 based on Raunkiaer’s law of many rare species, fewer common and few intermediately abundant  
 865 species (Papp, L. & Izsák, J. (1997). Bimodality in occurrence classes: A direct consequence of  
 866 lognormal or logarithmic series distribution of abundances - a numerical experimentation. *Oikos*, 79,  
 867 191-194). The number of species per final abundance category per historical flora is shown in Fig.  
 868 S15 (blue bars).

22. Orchideæ.	
1.	<i>Orchis ustulata</i> L. Tidsvilde (Horn.), Søllerød (Dr.), bag Flaskekroen (Mackeprang).
2.	— <i>Morio</i> L. Magleby på Amager (Vil.), Jonstrup, Kirke- værløse, Lilleværløse-overdrev, Edelgave (H. M.), eng — n. f. Vedeløv, mose mellem Himmeløv og St. Valby (Thoms.), Ordrup, Charlottenlund, Dyrehaven (Benzon). — — var. fl. alb., Jonstrup, Lilleværløse-overdrev (H. M.).
3.	— <i>mascula</i> L. Alm.
4.	— <i>majalis</i> Rchb. Ikke sj.
5.	— <i>incarnata</i> L. T. alm. — — var. fl. alb. Lyngby-mose alm. (H. M.). — — $\beta$ . <i>hæmatodes</i> Rchb. Ladegården v. København (J. Vahl).
6.	— <i>maculata</i> L. Alm. — — $\beta$ . <i>concolor</i> Lge. Tibirke-mose (B. f.),
7.	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> R. Br. Tidsvilde, Lundehusmosen (Horn.), Søborg-mose, Tryggerød-mose (J. Lge.), mell. Flynderup og Egebæksvang (Stbg.), Bidstrup-mose, Senge- løse-mose, Jonstrup-vang (H. M.).
8.	— <i>albida</i> Rich. Brøde (Horn. Dr.) bakker mell. Hiorte-

869  
 870 **Figure S12.** Example of historical regional flora: H. Mortensen, *Nordostsjælland's Flora*, *Botanisk*  
 871 *Tidsskrift* 5 (1872): p. 100. The regional abundance is given as “Alm.” (i.e. common) or similar for  
 872 relatively common species, such as *Orchis mascula*, whereas a list of named occurrence sites is given

873 for relatively rare species, e.g. *Neottinea ustulata* (syn. *Orchis ustulata*), for which three sites are  
874 mentioned. Two of the species listed are now extinct from the region in question, whereas the  
875 remaining have become much rarer.

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#### 877 *Present data*

878 In order to enable comparison of abundance over time, the present data were similarly transformed  
879 to an ordinal 0-1 scale. For this, we used recent presence-absence data, i.e. based on reference grid  
880 cells only. For each species, the number of occupied reference cells was divided by the total number  
881 of reference grid cells within the relevant region (red cells, Fig. S13). To avoid false disappearances,  
882 the abundance of species only recorded in non-reference cells, was calculated as if the species was  
883 found in one reference cell. Example of calculation, see Table S8. Patterns of numbers of species per  
884 abundance class roughly follow Raunkiær's law, as expected. Number of species within each final  
885 abundance category is shown in Fig. S15 (red bars).

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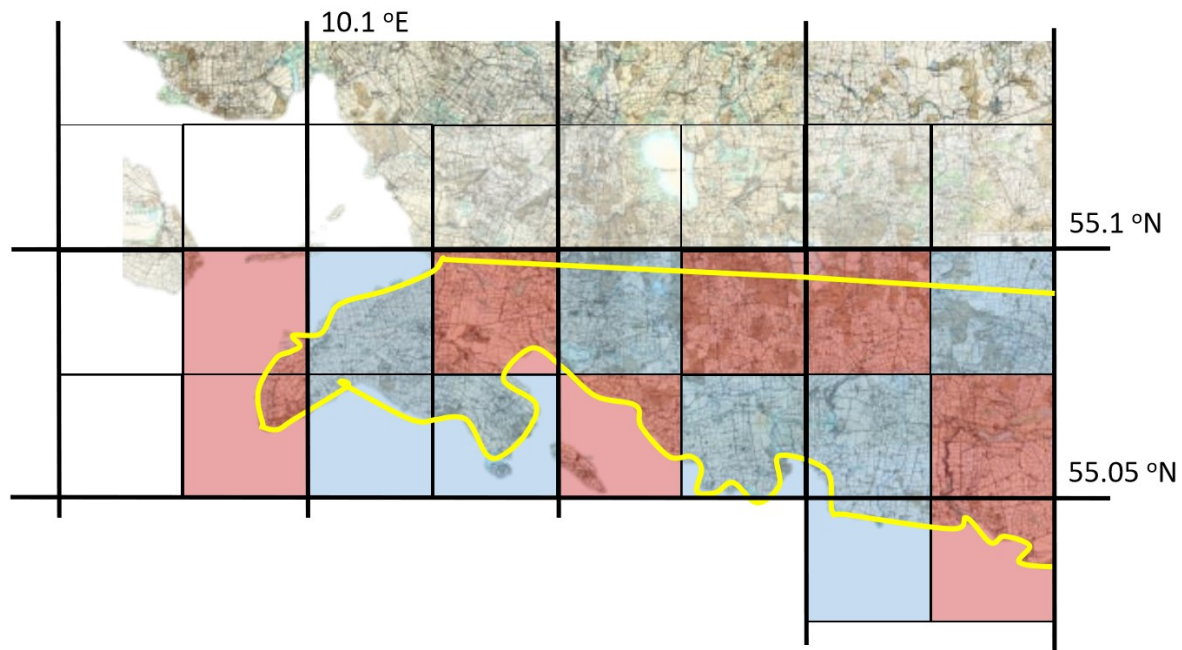
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#### 889 *Abundance in three steps – historical and present*

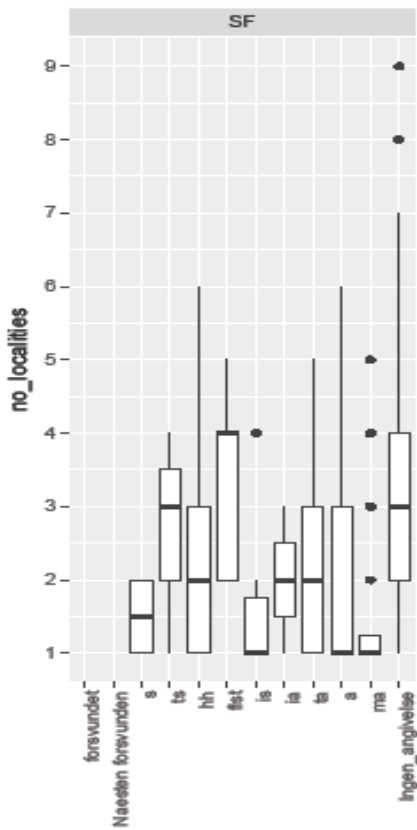
890 To test the sensitivity of our assessment of abundance change to the assignment of abundance classes,  
891 we tried a more conservative approach, simplifying the abundance scale to three broad classes. All  
892 species' abundance values on the 0-1 ordinal scale, historical and present, were sliced into three  
893 abundance categories with approximately the same number of original categories in each new  
894 category, without regarding the number of species. See Table S7 and S8 for examples of historical  
895 and present data, respectively.

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898 **Figure S13.** *Matching occurrence and abundance in historical data from polygon regions with*  
899 *present grid cell data.* A historical map (1:20,000 Ordnance map, 1865) showing a part of the region  
900 “Southern Funen Mainland” (region #3 in Fig. 1). Approximate longitude and latitude are noted to  
901 imply spatial scale. Historical data relate to the area within the yellow line (borders indicated using  
902 place names and administrative units given in the historical flora), while present data (Atlas Flora  
903 Danica survey) were done in grid cells of  $5 \times 5$  km (black lines). Red cells are “reference cells” and  
904 blue cells “non-reference cells”, both included (as more than 50% of their land area lie within the  
905 yellow polygon), while white cells were excluded. In the recent survey, at least two grid cells per  
906 tetrad ( $10 \times 10$  km; bold black lines) were fully investigated, i.e. “reference cells”.



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908 **Figure S14.** Number of localities specified for each abundance-category, example from region #3  
 909 “Southern Funen Mainland” (834 species). The abscissa indicates abundance-categories with  
 910 increasing abundance from left to right. Categories are (in Danish abbreviations from left to right):  
 911 forsvundet = extinct; næsten forsvundet = nearly extinct; s = rare; ts = relatively rare; hh = here and  
 912 there; flst = several places; is = not rare; ia = not common; ta = relatively common; a = common;  
 913 ma = very common; ingen\_angivelse = number of localities not specified. For this particular  
 914 regional flora, we judged that the number of localities increased through the categories ‘rare’ (s) and  
 915 ‘relatively rare’ (ts) and then decreased. We therefor assigned the category ‘rare’ to species  
 916 occurring at 1-3 localities and the category ‘relatively rare’ to species occurring at >3 localities, as  
 917 seen in table S7.

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924 **Table S7.** *Historical data. Translation of number of occurrence sites to abundance categories and*  
 925 *to final regional abundance.* Example from region # 3, Southern Funen Mainland. Number  
 926 localities are translated to abundance categories based on Fig. S9. Final regional abundance is  
 927 calculated as abundance category number divided by the total number of abundance categories (=9).  
 928 Abundance is sliced into three broad categories with approximately the same number of original  
 929 categories in each (here = 3).

Number of localities	Abundance category ( <i>Danish abbreviation</i> )	Abundance category number	Final Regional Abundance	Regional Abundance in 3 categories
1	Rare ( <i>s</i> )	1	0.11	1
2	Rare ( <i>s</i> )	1	0.11	1
3	Rare ( <i>s</i> )	1	0.11	1
4	Relatively rare ( <i>ts</i> )	2	0.22	1
5	Relatively rare ( <i>ts</i> )	2	0.22	1
6	Relatively rare ( <i>ts</i> )	2	0.22	1
-	Rare ( <i>s</i> )	1	0.11	1
-	Relatively rare ( <i>ts</i> )	2	0.22	1
-	Here & there ( <i>hh</i> )	3	0.33	1
-	Several places ( <i>flst</i> )	4	0.44	2
-	Not rare ( <i>is</i> )	5	0.56	2
-	Not common ( <i>ia</i> )	6	0.67	2
-	Relatively common ( <i>ta</i> )	7	0.78	3
-	Common ( <i>a</i> )	8	0.89	3
-	Very common ( <i>ma</i> )	9	1.00	3

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940 **Table S8.** *Recent data. Calculation of abundance on a 0-1 ordinal scale.* Example of the first six  
 941 species in an alphabetical list from region #3, Southern Funen Mainland.

Scientific name	# observations – all grid-cells	# observations – reference grid-cells	Total # reference grid-cells	Final Abundance (#ObsRefGrid-cells / #RefGrid-cells)	Abundance in 3 categories
<i>Abies alba</i>	5	5	10	0.5	2
<i>Abies grandis</i>	1	1	10	0.1	1
<i>Abies nordmanniana</i>	2	2	10	0.2	1
<i>Abies procera</i>	1	1	10	0.1	1
<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	1	1	10	0.1	1
<i>Acer campestre</i>	8	8	10	0.8	3
...	...	...	...	...	...

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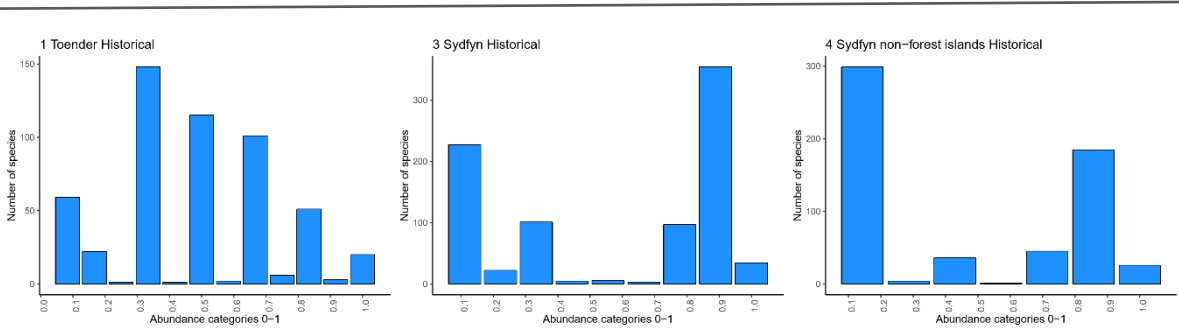
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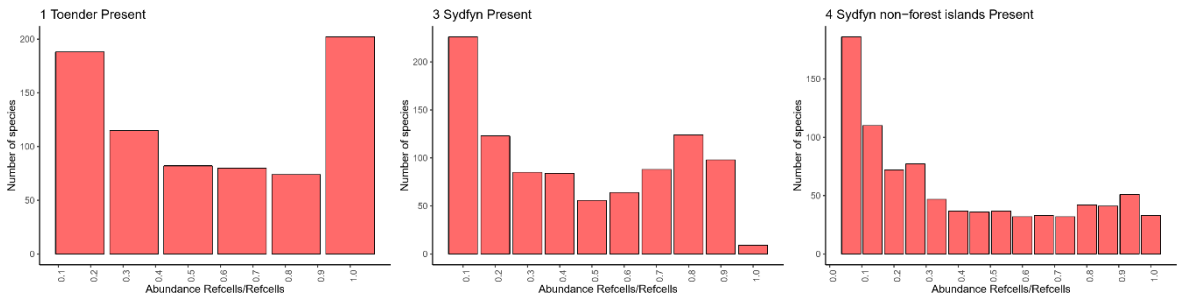
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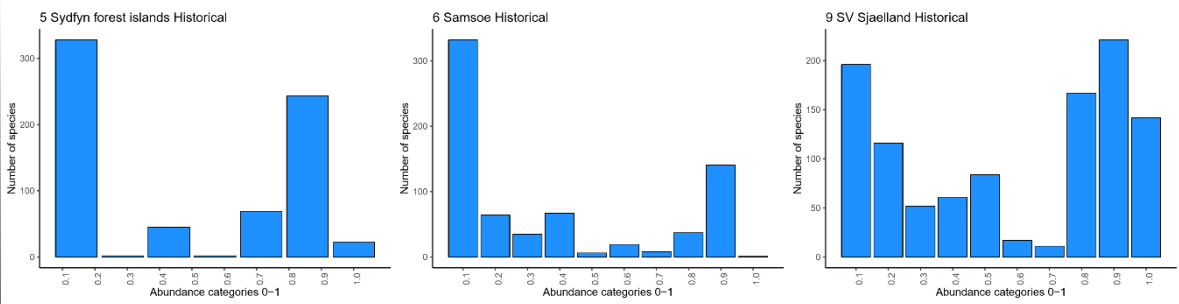
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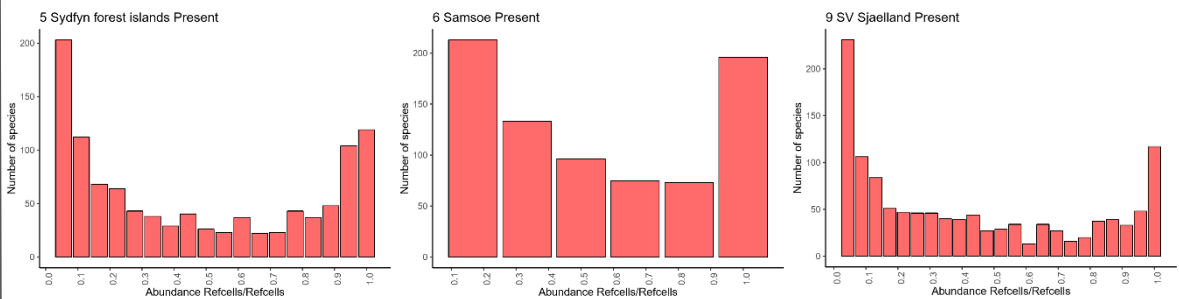
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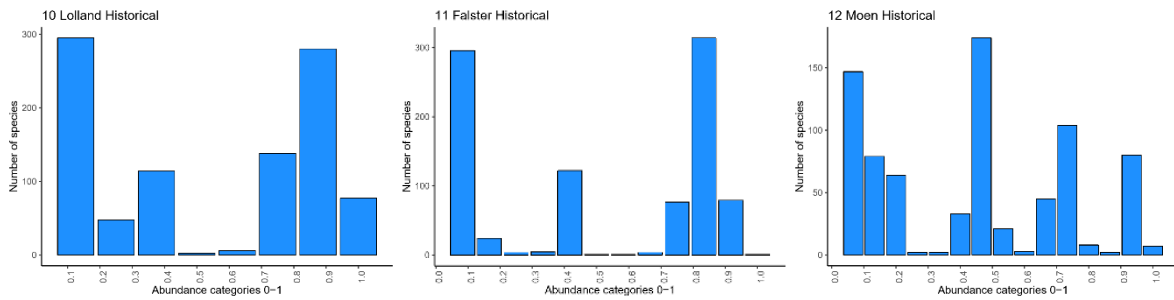
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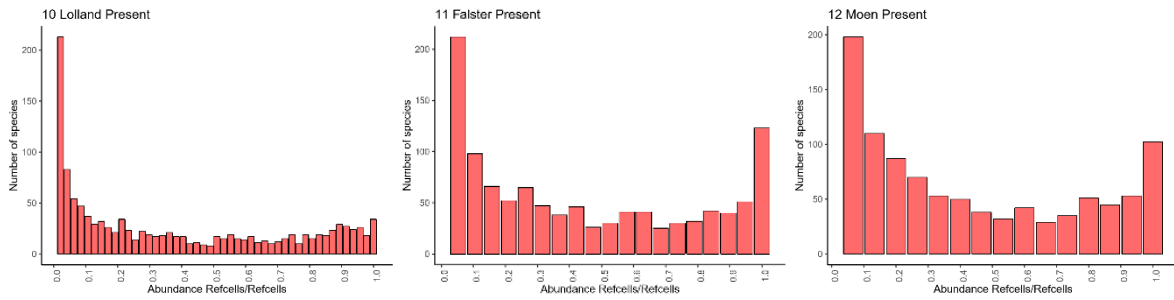
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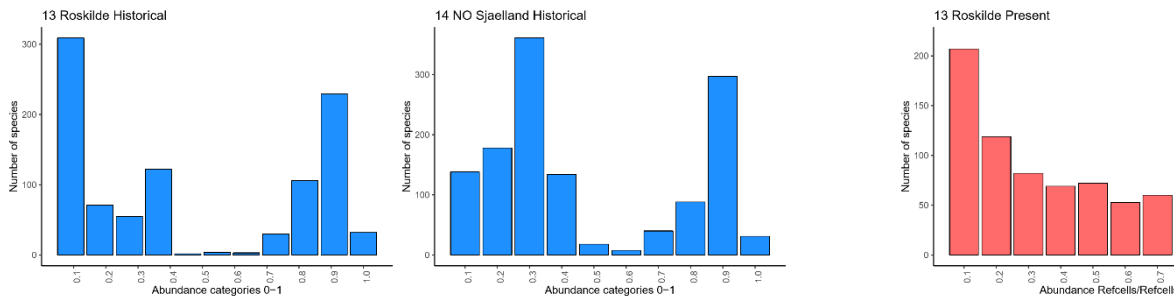
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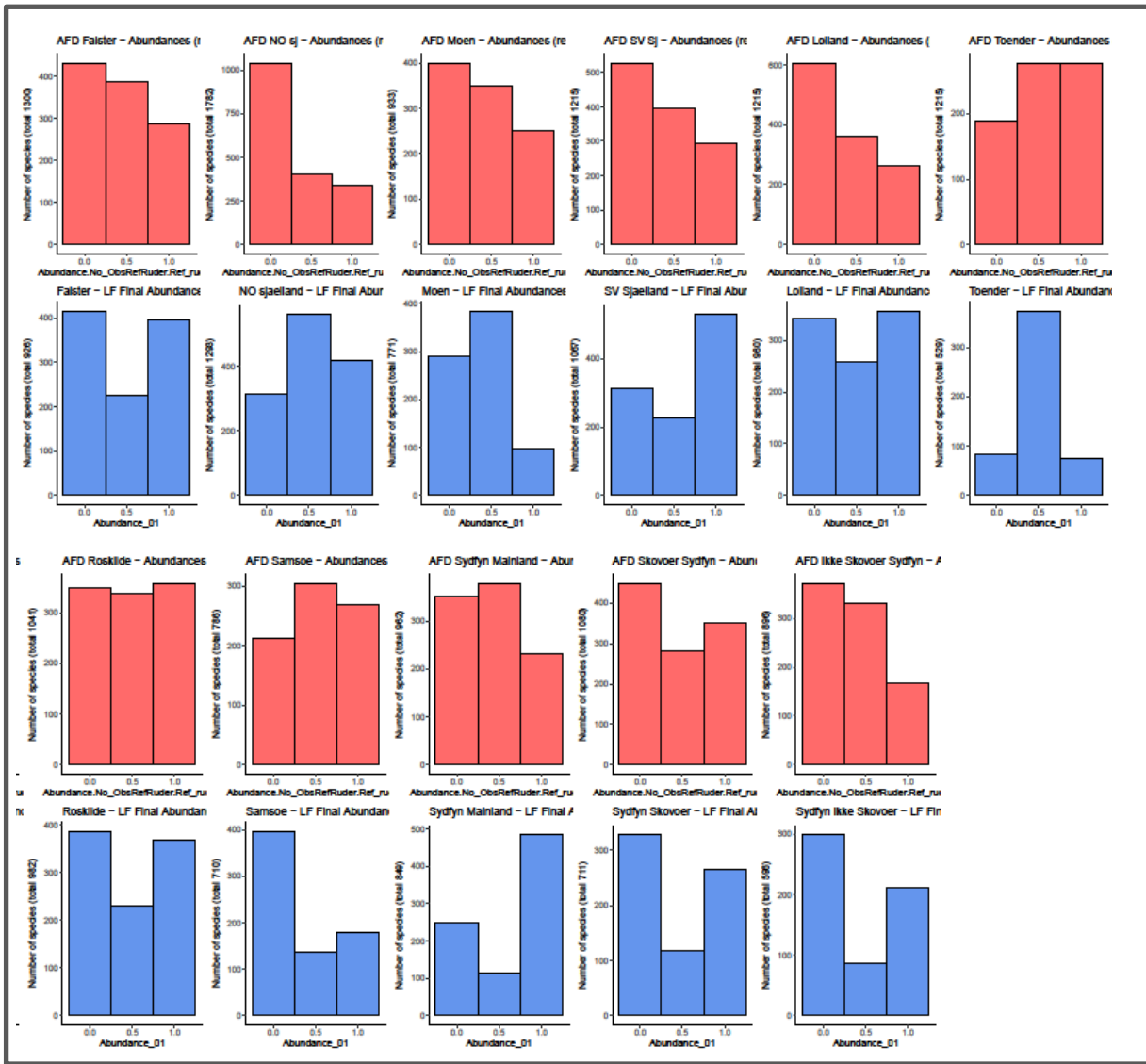
961 **Figure S15.** *Number of species within each final abundance category for 11 regions.*

962 Historical data are blue bars and present data red bars. The number of species in each category is  
 963 shown in original ordinal categories 0-1. Plots ordered by region number, following Fig. 1. 11 regions  
 964 with abundance data (excluded are regions: 2, 7 and 8).

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970 **Figure S16.** Number of species within each abundance category in three categories, for 11 regions.  
 971 Present data are red bars and historical data blue bars. Y-axis is the number of species within each  
 972 category and x-axis ordinal categories from 0-1. From left to right the region-numbers following Fig.  
 973 1 are: 11; 14; 12; 9; 10; 1; 13; 6; 3; 5; 4.

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