

Ecological niches and their evolution among Neotropical manakins

(Aves: Pipridae)

**Marina Anciães<sup>1</sup> and A. Townsend Peterson**

Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, 1345 Jayhawk Blvd., University of  
Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561 USA

Corresponding author:

Marina Anciães

<sup>2</sup> Coordenação de Pesquisa em Ecologia e Programa de Coleções e Acervos, Instituto Nacional  
de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Av. André Araújo 2936, Aleixo, CEP 69060-001, Manaus –  
AM, Brasil.

Email: marina.anciaes@gmail.com

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<sup>1</sup> Research conducted in part at Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

<sup>2</sup> Current address.

Study of the evolution of ecological characteristics using phylogenetic information is only beginning, but several new tools and approaches open fascinating possibilities. The Pipridae is a diverse and well-known family of frugivorous birds that are easily sampled and that are broadly distributed across many Neotropical environments, and as such are appropriate for studies of ecological niche evolution. Using known occurrences and climate and topography data sets, we modeled ecological niches for each species in the family, and carried out analyses aimed at describing ecological niches of manakins and understanding historical patterns of ecological change in the family. Most species' ecological niches were characterized by warm and relatively humid conditions, reflecting the great diversification of the family in lowland and montane forests of western South America. Ecological niche evolution was in general conservative, with most sister species pairs being closely similar ecologically, indicating that isolation rather than adaptation to new ecological conditions has dominated the diversification in this family. Exceptions to this pattern represent interesting foci for future research, whereas studies of ecological niches focusing on past distributions of manakins will allow further biogeographic inferences.

*Key-words:* manakin, evolution, ecological niche, geographic distribution, speciation.

Ecological niches have long been the subject of intense interest in biogeography and evolution, given their early formulation as the key tie between species' physiology and natural history and their geographic potential (Grinnell 1917, Grinnell 1924). Although the concept of ecological niches has itself evolved since its original formulation, with addition of consideration of species' roles in ecological communities (Hutchinson 1957, MacArthur 1972), its usefulness in understanding why species are where they are, and why they are not where they are not, continues. Answering this question for sets of species provides a first-level view of the ecology and history of distributional phenomena affecting the group (Soberón and Peterson 2005, Soberón 2007).

Recent studies have focused on conservatism of ecological niche characteristics, asking whether these features are evolutionary labile or not, over different evolutionary time periods (e.g. Peterson et al. 1999, Prinzig et al. 2001, Webb et al. 2002, Losos et al. 2003, Rice et al. 2003, Graham et al. 2004, Knouft et al. 2006, Wiens et al. 2006, Wellenreuther et al. 2007). Most of these studies do not consider biotic factors, such as competition or the role of species in communities, in describing ecological niches of species, and thus are based on pioneering concepts of ecological niches (review in Chase and Leibold 2003). At the shallowest level, species invasions have been used to investigate whether the ecological 'niche' (at coarse spatial scales) of a species depends on the community makeup in which they are distributed, with the general result that they appear quite insensitive (Peterson 2003a). This result indicates that abiotic factors are frequently suitable for describing ecological niches of species, and also corroborates expectations from neutral theory concerning niche differentiation in ecological communities (Hubbel 2001). Second, a few studies have assessed the predictivity between present-day and Pleistocene geographic distributions (over time periods of  $10^3$ - $10^4$  yr) and their

ecological characteristics, again concluding conservative niche evolution (Martínez-Meyer et al. 2004, Martínez-Meyer et al. 2006). Finally, studies comparing ecological niche characteristics between sister species pairs, and deeper into phylogenetic history, have revealed ecological niche conservatism over time periods of at least  $10^4$ - $10^6$  yr, and breakdown of that conservatism over longer time periods (Huntley et al. 1989, Martínez-Meyer 2002, Peterson et al. 1999, Rice et al. 2003). Overall, the picture is one of ecological niche conservatism over short-to-medium periods of evolutionary time, coinciding with recent theoretical results (Holt and Gaines 1992, Holt and Gomulkiewicz 1996, review in Wiens 2004) and providing a fascinating context for a predictive understanding of ecological and geographic phenomena in biodiversity (Soberón and Peterson 2004, 2005, Wiens and Graham 2005). This result, nonetheless, is based on a relatively small sample of studies, placing a premium on additional analyses addressing evolutionary conservatism of ecological niche characteristics and consequences for speciation and biogeography.

Tests of niche conservatism are also relevant to conservation questions, indicating areas holding unique sets of species, both taxonomically and ecologically (Kremen et al. 2008). Such studies are also important for assessing habitat suitability and risks for species reintroductions (Martínez-Meyer et al. 2006), and of particular interest for understanding the adaptive potential of species facing habitat change (Peterson 2003b, Anciães and Peterson 2006, Araújo et al. 2006, Graham et al. 2006, Nunes et al. 2007, Seavy et al. 2008).

The manakins (Aves: Pipridae) are a diverse clade of small frugivorous birds distributed across the Neotropics (Ridgely and Tudor 1994, Snow 2004). All told, the family includes ~45 species, depending on the taxonomic treatment followed, and several clades broadly distributed across diverse habitats, including lowland rain forest, other lowland forests, and some montane

91 forests. Moreover, they are easily collected, and so are well-represented in collections, and a  
92 molecular phylogeny is in the final stages of completion (S. Hackett, pers. comm.). As such,  
93 manakins represent an ideal basis for examination of the evolutionary stability of ecological  
94 niche characteristics over phylogenetic history, allowing insights into modes of speciation and  
95 differentiation. This study aims to describe ecological niches of manakins, based on the coarse  
96 grain abiotic characteristics of their geographic distributions; map their potential distributions;  
97 and evaluate historical patterns of ecological change in the family. Additional studies, including  
98 outlining the likely Pleistocene geography of the group, will complement these analyses  
99 (Anciães and Peterson, in prep.).

## 101 **Methods**

102 *Input data.*— Ecological niche modeling (hereafter “ENM”) requires two data inputs: occurrence  
103 information for the species of interest, and electronic GIS coverages summarizing features of the  
104 ecological landscape. For this study, occurrence information in the form of unique geographic  
105 localities at which specimens of a particular species have been collected were accumulated from  
106 data associated with natural history museum specimens for all manakin species and for 10  
107 species in closely related families (genera *Neopelma*, *Neopipo*, *Piprites*, and *Tyranneutes*) for  
108 comparison (Table 1). Records drawn from the literature and field observations complemented  
109 the data set; lists of sources are available on request from the senior author.

110 We used 13 GIS layers to summarize aspects of the ecological landscape, including aspects  
111 of topography (elevation, slope, aspect, topographic index; from the U.S. Geological Survey’s  
112 Hydro-1K data set, <http://edcdaac.usgs.gov/gtopo30/hydro/>, spatial resolution, 1 km<sup>2</sup>) and  
113 aspects of climate (annual means) including diurnal temperature range; precipitation; maximum,

minimum, and mean temperatures; solar radiation; wet days; frost frequency; and vapor pressure, interpolated from weather station data from 1961-1990 and resampled to 30' resolution (from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, <http://www.ipcc.ch/>). All environmental data sets were generalized to a final pixel resolution of 0.1 x 0.1°, or about 10 x 10 km, for an area including all of tropical America (34° N to 40° S latitude).

*Ecological niche modeling.*— The ecological niche of a species can be defined as the conjunction of ecological conditions within which it is able to maintain populations without immigration (Grinnell 1917, Holt and Gaines 1992); as such, it is defined in multidimensional ecological and environmental space (MacArthur 1972). Several approaches have been used to approximate species' ecological niches (Nix 1986, Austin et al. 1990, Carpenter et al. 1993, Elith et al. 2006); that which has seen broadest application to questions of ecological niche evolution is the Genetic Algorithm for Rule-set Prediction (GARP), which includes several inferential methods in an iterative optimization approach (Stockwell 1999, Stockwell and Noble 1992, Stockwell and Peters 1999).

All modeling in this study was carried out on a desktop implementation of GARP (Pereira 2002). In GARP, available occurrence points are divided evenly into data sets for model building (25% for model training and 25% for intrinsic testing and tuning of models) and extrinsic test data sets (50%) for model evaluation. GARP is designed to work based on presence-only data; absence information is included in the modeling via sampling of pseudo-absence points from the set of pixels where the species has not been detected, and thus its probability of presence is decidedly below unity. Models were generated through intrinsic data sets alone when sample sizes were <20 known locality points. GARP works in an iterative process of rule selection, evaluation, testing, and incorporation or rejection: first, a method is chosen from a set of

possibilities (e.g., logistic regression, bioclimatic rules), and then is applied to the training data and a rule is developed. Rules may evolve by a number of means (e.g., truncation, point changes, crossing-over among rules) to maximize predictivity. The accuracy of rules in predicting intrinsic test points is evaluated for model refinement, based on 1250 points resampled from the intrinsic test data and 1250 points sampled randomly from the study region as a whole, by comparing the proportion of test points correctly predicted in relation to random expectations. The change in predictive accuracy from one iteration to the next is used to evaluate whether a particular rule should be incorporated into the model, and the algorithm runs either 1000 iterations or until convergence.

To optimize model quality, we developed 100 replicate models for each species, and selected the 10 best models using a best-practices procedure for identifying optimal models (Anderson et al. 2003). This procedure is based on the observation that (i) models vary in quality; (ii) variation among models involves an inverse relationship between errors of omission (leaving out true distributional area) and errors of commission (including areas not actually inhabited); and (iii) best models (as judged by experts blind to error statistics) are clustered in a region of minimum omission of independent test points and moderate commission error. Specifically, we used a soft omission threshold, focusing on the extreme 20% of the distribution of omission values across models. We then chose models presenting intermediate levels of commission (i.e., the central 50% of the commission index distribution). The 10 best models were summed in ArcView 3.2, and we took as a best and most conservative distributional estimate the areas predicted present by all of these models.

Because the focus of this study was on ecological niche characterization rather than on distributional prediction, and given both the small sample sizes available and prior experience

with modeling such species in these regions (e.g., Peterson et al. 2002), we did not subset data for independent model validations. We used the raw GARP output (i.e., maps of species' *potential* distributions, rather than actual distributions) for estimating levels of interpredictivity between species pairs (see below). For 8 species for which locality data were insufficient for generating models accurately, known distributional limits were used in order to complete the following analyses. This procedure likely did not biased the results considerably because of the reduced known ranges of these species - which is believed to represent their regional rarity rather than sampling effort – and the broad scale of the analyses. Finally, for a few analyses that required species' actual distributions, and because species are often prevented from inhabiting the entire spatial extent of their appropriate ecological niche conditions by barriers to dispersal or the presence of competitors, we reduced the raw maps to those areas within or contiguous to known distributional limits (Hellmayr 1924, Peters 1931, Hilty and Brown 1986, Sick 1993, Ridgely and Tudor 1994, Ridgely and Greenfield 2001, Hilty 2003).

*Analyses.*— The overall diversity of manakins was estimated by summing final distributional models (i.e., *actual* distributional estimates) across all species. We divided the study region into 6 ecoregions, based on known distributional limits of the main biomes and biogeographic regions in the Neotropics (Amazon, Andes, Guianas, Atlantic Forest, Central America - Chocó, Cerrado), and estimated numbers of species predicted to occur in each region based on presences and absences in the final distributional models. To control for area effects, we standardized numbers of species by the total area of each region.

To visualize niches of species in ecological space, we used the COMBINE option of the Grid Tools extension of ArcView 3.2 to identify all unique environmental combinations across the region (i.e., unique combinations of values of the environmental variables). Variables were z-



standardized (mean = 0, s.d. = 1) by subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation. Centroids of ecological niches of species were estimated as the multivariate means of variables across all pixels predicted present for a given species. Niche breadth of each species was estimated as the number of unique environmental combinations in its modeled distribution. Unique environmental combinations and centroids of ecological niches were estimated in a 4-dimensional space, given computational limitations and previous knowledge about the relevance of selected variables (mean temperature, precipitation, wet days, and topographic index) to distributions of Neotropical birds (e.g. Peterson et al. 2002). We estimated proportional occupancy of potential distributions as the proportion of the entire spatial extent of appropriate ecological niche conditions (i.e., potential distribution) that was likely inhabited (i.e., actual distribution).

Similarity or difference of ecological niches among species was measured in two ways, following Martínez-Meyer (2002). (1) We used pairwise Euclidean distances between centroids of ecological niches, given by:  $D = \sqrt{\sum (v_{iA} - v_{iB})^2}$ , where  $v_{iA}$  is the mean of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  variable within the distribution of species A, and likewise  $v_{iB}$  for species B. (2) We also measured ecological similarity via interpredictivity between the model for one species and the distribution for the other (Peterson et al. 1999). Here, we overlaid the potential distribution estimates for a particular species on the occurrence points of another species, and interpredictivity was measured as the proportion of points successfully predicted. We tested for spatial autocorrelation effects on ecological similarity among taxa by calculating geographic centroids of species' predicted distributions using the Centroid option in ArcGis 8.0, and computing pairwise Euclidean distances between distributions of species in geographic space. Associations between pairwise

ecological and geographic distances were tested using Mantel's tests within major clades in the family.

To provide a view of the phylogenetic history of the family, we used a molecular phylogeny based on 1067 bp of the mitochondrial cytochrome *b*, ND2 and ND3 genes, kindly provided by S. Hackett (unpubl. data). Using this historical framework, we overlaid pairwise ecological distance measures on the tree topology using the Fitch optimization option in PHYLIP (<http://evolution.gs.washington.edu/phylip.html>). The result was a diagram summarizing ecological change along each evolutionary lineage, assuming that the topology is correct (Rice et al. 2003). Considering the similarity between the two measures of ecological distance (Martínez-Meyer 2002, Rice et al. 2003, this study), we used only the Euclidean distances between centroids in ecological space in this analysis.

## **Results**

Our survey of natural history museum collections and other data sources regarding species' occurrences resulted in 2045 unique locality records for 47 manakin species and 10 outgroup species. Ecological niches varied among species in spatial extent from ~15,000 km<sup>2</sup> (*Corapipo heteroleuca*, *Manacus milleri*) up to ~5,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> (*M. manacus*, *Dixiphia pipra*, *Chiroxiphia pareola*). Ecological niches varied in breadth from 13 combinations (*Corapipo heteroleuca*) up to ~5000 environmental combinations (*M. manacus*; Table 1).

As a whole, manakin species were predicted to be distributed across about two-thirds of the Neotropics, with up to 18 species predicted to occur (potentially) in sympatry (note that the coarse grain in our analysis admits some spatial and ecological diversity into the definition of 'sympatry'). Areas of highest expected species diversity (e.g., ≥13 species) were in the Amazon

Basin and Guianan Shield (Fig. 1), particularly from the Rio Negro and Rio Amazonas north to the Guianas, and from the Rio Tapajós and Rio Madeira south along the slopes of the Peruvian Andes in the west. Regional diversity calculations yielded similar results: the Amazon presented highest regional diversity (32 species, 68% predicted to be present); on a per-area basis, however, regions such as the Andes, Central America, and Guianan Shield were emphasized. The Atlantic Forest and the Cerrado had low species:area ratios. Overall, our results point clearly to a northwestern center of diversity in the Neotropics, with fewer species inhabiting forested environments farther to the east.

Visualizing these predicted geographic distributions in ecological dimensions (Fig. 2) revealed that manakin species generally have ecological niches characterized by high temperature and precipitation, although a few species occur under cooler or more arid conditions. In extreme cases, species occupy cold dry areas in the southern Andes (*Chiroxiphia boliviana*), and hot humid areas of the western Amazon and Choco (e.g. *Heterocercus aurantiivertex*, *Manacus vittellinus*). Arid open areas are mostly unoccupied by manakins.

Most species had relatively small geographic distributional areas. In general, niche breadth and distributional area were closely and positively related ( $r^2 = 0.986$ ; Fig. 3). Species inhabited on average  $39 \pm 26\%$  (range 2–90%) of their potential distributions, and only one-third of species inhabited >50% of their potential distributions.

In general, sister species pairs were separated by smaller distances in ecological space than non-sister species within or among major clades in the family (Fig. 4). Interpredictivity-based approaches to measuring ecological similarity and distance yielded a similar picture—interpredictivity was higher among sister species pairs than among non-sister taxa. *Lepidothrix*, for example, shows similar niches among sister species (*L. iris* and *L. nattereri*), but

differentiation from close relatives above the sister species level; *Corapipo-Masius*, on the other hand, shows broader niche conservatism, including above sister species to include much of *Corapipo* (Fig. 5). These findings indicate niche conservatism among closely related species; ecological niche characteristics among more distantly related species are often more divergent. Ecological similarity measured by Euclidean and interpredictivity distances provided similar results, but the interpredictivity measures are bounded, so we used Euclidean distances in the remainder of our analyses (Martínez-Meyer 2002).

Pairwise ecological similarity between species was significantly related to geographic proximity (Mantel's  $r = 0.293$ ;  $t = 4.144$ ;  $P = 0.004$ ). Results were different, however, across species within genera—here, in most cases, ecological similarity was not related to geographic distances between species' range centroids (Table 2). Hence, within clades, levels of niche similarity are not a function of geographic proximity, but of niche conservatism over time.

Phylogenetic reconstructions of change in ecological parameters show relatively little variation in total amount of evolutionary change reconstructed along different lineages (Fig. 6). That is to say, most manakin lineages show similar overall total differentiation from the manakin ancestor, which suggests that evolution of ecological niche characteristics is not wildly variable over evolutionary time periods. The few long branches observed—most notably *Chiroxiphia boliviana*—appear to represent taxa reinvading higher-elevation, cooler climates from the hot and humid lowlands characteristic of the genus (Fig. 2). Most sister species pairs again were closely similar (e.g., *Manacus candei* and *M. aurantiacus*, *Corapipo altera* and *C. leucorrhoa*)—on the other hand, some pairs showed substantial ecological distances (e.g., *Pipra chloromeros* and *P. rubrocapilla*, *Machaeropterus regulus* and *M. striolatus*, *Chiroxiphia lanceolata* and *C. linearis*).

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## 275 **Discussion**

276 Ecological niches of most manakin species are characterized by warm and humid climates,  
277 typical of lowland forests in the Neotropics. Although greatest diversity was predicted in the  
278 Amazon Basin, some montane forests also presented high diversity, particularly on a per-area  
279 basis. The full geographic extent of species' potential distributions, however, was only partially  
280 occupied in most species, suggesting that manakin distributions are frequently constrained by  
281 barriers to dispersal, or possibly by competitors. Although barriers to dispersal and interspecific  
282 competition represent two distinct processes, acting on different time scales and with different  
283 predictions regarding adaptation to local environments, both may explain absence of a species  
284 from otherwise suitable areas. Additional studies would provide interesting tests for the role of  
285 competitive exclusion, as well as other interactions (e.g., Anderson et al. 2002), in limiting  
286 species' distributions and circumscribing ecological niches within manakins. Absence of species  
287 from parts of their predicted ranges is unlikely to be explained by human-driven habitat change:.  
288 in the first place, many manakins are reasonably tolerant of fine-scale habitat degradation (e.g.,  
289 secondary forests and fragmentation), and in the second place, the coarse resolution of the  
290 climate parameters used in this study largely ignore human-driven change.

291 ENMs are well-documented to demonstrate excellent predictivity of species' distributions  
292 (Panetta and Dodd 1987, Hoffmann 2001, Peterson et al. 2002, Nakazawa et al. 2004, Graham et  
293 al. 2004, Soberón and Peterson 2005, Araújo et al. 2006, Elith et al. 2006). Ecological niche  
294 models did show areas of overprediction that resulted from the large region considered in this  
295 analysis, which includes considerable historical and geographic heterogeneity—as such, this  
296 overprediction does not represent low predictive power (Peterson et al. 2007). Overpredictions

occur when suitable conditions exist in regions not occupied by a species because of interactions with other species (e.g. Anderson et al. 2002) or because of barriers that prevent colonization (Brown and Lomolino 1998, Patterson 1999, Peterson et al. 1999).

The comparative approach used here required a large, inclusive region for model development for all species, as models had to be developed based on the same environmental data. The geographic heterogeneity of this broad region made it necessary to trim species' potential distributions to be able to estimate their *actual* distributions. ENM estimates of potential distributions are roughly equivalent to fundamental niches (sensu Hutchinson 1957), except for consideration of geographic and historical factors as well (Soberón and Peterson 2005). The 'overpredictions' that are the difference between potential and actual distributions (Anderson et al. 2003, Phillips et al. 2006) actually make possible synthetic evolutionary and ecological applications (Peterson et al. 1999, Peterson and Vieglais 2001, Anderson et al. 2002, Peterson et al. 2007). Considering overall niche similarity among closely related manakins, for example, and predictivity of parapatric distributions between closely related species within the Amazon Basin (Haffer 1974), low occupancy of potential distributions suggests that rivers represent barriers to dispersal that may be involved in the speciation process (Wallace 1852, Haffer 1992). Wiens (2004) discussed the idea that ecological similarity is expected to be frequent across barriers to dispersal among closely-related taxa. Nevertheless, studies of ecological niches focusing on narrower geographic scales and conducted on a per species basis, or species complexes, will be able to depict more accurately the level of ecological similarity among closely related taxa, which was not within the scope of this study.

Ecological similarity as measured by Euclidean and interpredictivity distances provided similar results. However, as others have noted (Martínez-Meyer 2002), interpredictivity

measures are bounded, so we used Euclidean distances principally in describing ecological niches. Interpredictivity measures may fail to characterize ecological distances accurately when differences are in only one or a few dimensions (Rice et al. 2003), which may explain some of the disagreements in results between the two distance measures (Martínez-Meyer 2002, Rice et al. 2003, Nakazawa et al. 2004). Species predicted to inhabit larger distributional areas also had broader ecological niches, indicating area effects on environmental heterogeneity used by manakins. Although this result could be indicative of reduced vulnerability to habitat alteration by more generalist manakins species, these species are found mainly in lowland forests, and so likely face higher rate of area loss than species with more restricted ranges, typically found in montane forests (Anciães and Peterson 2006). Further, the weak associations between ecological similarity and geographic proximity indicate that ecological characteristics of species in such areas were potentially constrained by phylogeny. Hence, although the overall pattern is of a positive ecology-geography relationship, the most relevant relationships—those *within* genera—are generally not significant and are not strongly positive, suggesting that ecological similarity among species is not simply a consequence of geographic proximity.

Our findings indicate niche conservatism in general among closely related manakins species. Levels of niche similarity among sister taxa observed here suggest that ecological diversification accompanies speciation events only infrequently, and therefore that species diverged in allopatry without adaptation to new environments being evoked. This result is consistent with theoretical results that suggest that ecological innovation should be relatively rare (Holt and Gaines 1992, Holt and Gomulkiewicz 1996, Wiens 2004). These findings are similar to those from other studies (Peterson et al. 1999, Prinzig et al. 2001, Webb et al. 2002, Martínez-Meyer 2004, Wiens et al. 2006), whereas other studies have indicated niche plasticity (Johnson

and Cicero 2002, Rice et al. 2003, Losos et al. 2003, Graham et al. 2004, Kruft et al. 2006, Wellenreuther et al. 2007), suggesting variation among taxonomic groups and across phylogenetic scales in the relative importance of ecological diversification over evolutionary time. A relevant point is that the null hypothesis tested herein is whether niches are more similar than would be expected by chance (rather than whether they are identical; Warren et al. 2008), which also explains some of the contrast in results.

The directionality of change in ecological space occupied by manakins during their evolutionary history is of particular interest, as it can inform about general evolutionary tendencies in the family. The instances of fast ecological change observed herein suggest that new ecological potential may occasionally arise, which may in turn open opportunities for invasion of new geographic ranges. Clearly, more studies of taxonomic divergence (speciation) as it relates to ecological differentiation are needed, as evidence exists for both niche conservatism and rapid differentiation (Peterson and Holt 2003).

Although the preliminary nature of the phylogenetic topology (S. Hackett, pers. comm.) in Figure 6 limits our inferences, evidence from morphological and molecular data supports most inter- and intra-clade relationships presented (Lanyon 1985, Prum 1990, 1992, Brumfield and Braun 2001, Snow 2004, Cheviron et al. 2005, 2006, Rêgo et al. 2007). Therefore, we expect error from mistaken taxonomic affinities to be minor, specially considering that results present higher niche conservatism for cases of closest taxonomic relationships – those best known to date.

Estimating times of divergence among lineages is difficult, as it demands accuracy of a molecular clock and measuring variation in rates of evolution among lineages, genetic markers, and time periods. In the present case, the challenge is even greater, as we did not have branch-



length information available to us regarding the manakins—as such, we present ecological characters on the simple branching topology for the family, and are unable to calculate rates of change per unit of real time. Nevertheless, our results indicate conservatism of ecological niches over long evolutionary time periods, among manakin species. Estimating age of manakin species will allow analyses addressing variation in rates of ecological change among lineages and across time.

This study is intended as a first pass of analyses of ecological niche evolution in manakins, and as such leaves many details untapped. Among outstanding issues, larger sample sizes of occurrence localities are needed for some key clades (e.g., *Machaeropterus*) to allow more rigorous modeling and testing of model accuracy. We are extending this work via projecting models back onto Pleistocene climates to reconstruct past potential distributions and test biogeographic hypotheses (Bonaccorso et al. 2006, Peterson and Nyári 2008), and via comparing ecological niches of populations within species to investigate exceptions to the general picture of conservative ecological change observed here. Applications of these results are relevant to conservation and management plans: for example, projecting models onto future climates has indicated that manakin species inhabiting flatland areas will be under increasing threat by climate change predicted for the coming decades, whereas montane species will be a conservation concern more owing to deforestation ongoing in these habitats (Anciães and Peterson 2006). Additional work remains, but this paper presents basic results—demonstrating general ecological conservatism in the manakins over their evolutionary history.

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## Figure Legends

Fig. 1. Species diversity of manakins across the Neotropics according to species' modeled geographic distributions.

Fig. 2. Two-dimensional centroids of ecological niches for manakins and outgroup species.

Small black dots represent available combinations of mean temperature and precipitation in the study region; symbols represent species' means for the two variables.

Fig. 3. a) Area of modeled geographic distribution among the studied species; b) Relationship between area of predicted distribution and niche breadth, measured as the number of unique combinations of ecological variables observed in the modeled distributions, for each species.

Fig. 4. Frequency of P-values from pairwise interpredictivity tests, for the ability of modeled potential distribution of species A in predicting the actual localities of species B, and mean ( $\pm 1$  se) pairwise distance among centroids of ecological niches, n is indicated above bars. Inter-family values are pairwise comparisons of manakins to species in the outgroup.

Fig. 5. Interpredictivity between modeled distributions from known localities of species A (dotted circles) and known localities of species B: Upper panels - Model for *Lepidothrix nattereri* predicting localities of (a) its sister species, *L. iris* (black squares) and (b) other *Lepidothrix* species (*L. coronata*, diamonds; *L. caeruleocapilla*, open circles; *L. isidorei*, open squares; *L. serena*, black circles, *L. suavissima*, triangles. Bottom panels – Model for *Corapipo altera* predicting localities of (c) its sister species, *C. leucorrhoa* (black squares) and (d) *C. gutturalis* (black circles) and *Masius chrysopterus* (triangles).

Fig. 6. Evolution of ecological niches among manakins. Branch lengths represent the amount of ecological change between nodes and terminal taxa, estimated by the Fitch algorithm of character evolution, based on the molecular phylogeny proposed by Hackett (in prep).

Number of Species



Fig. 1

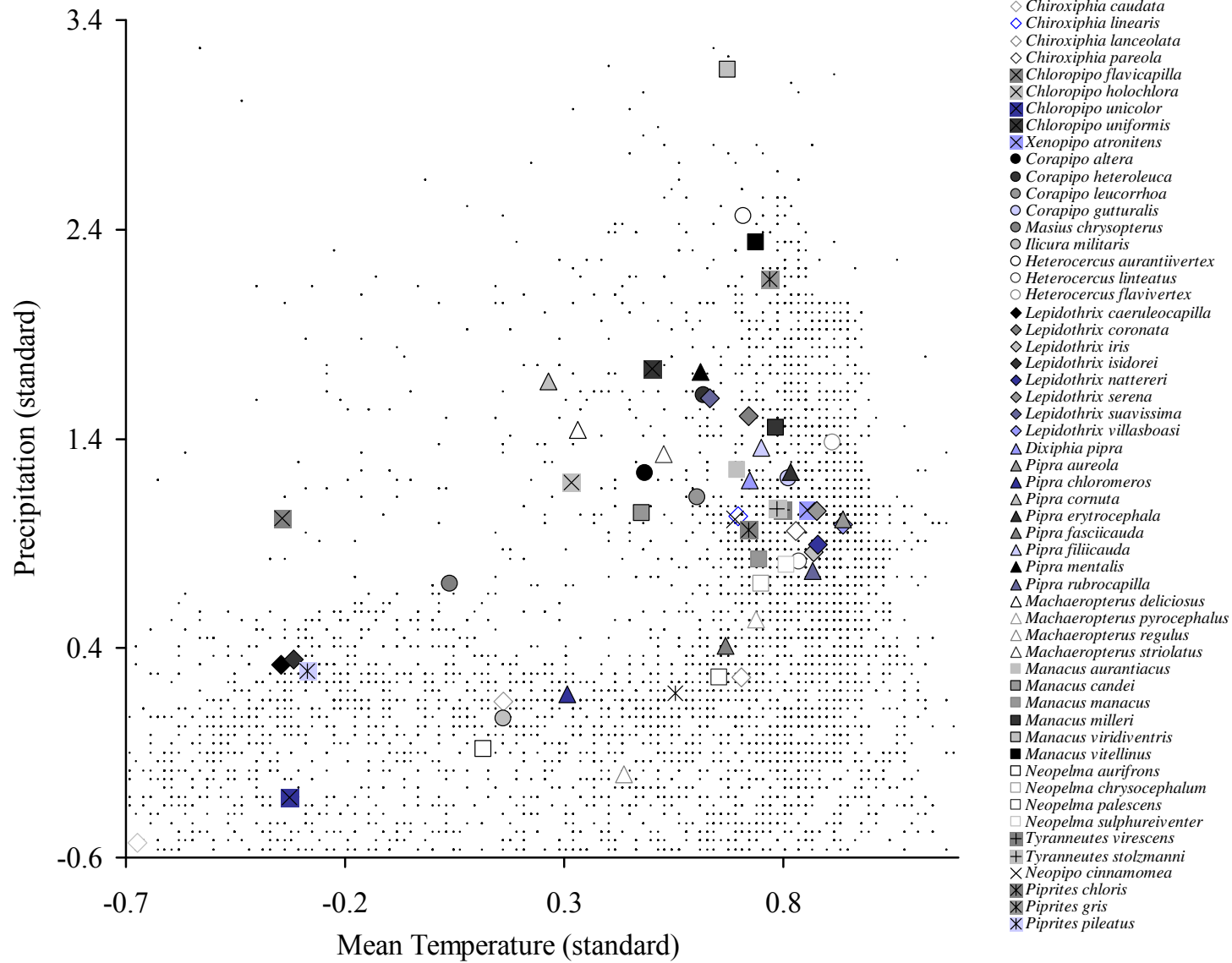


Fig. 2

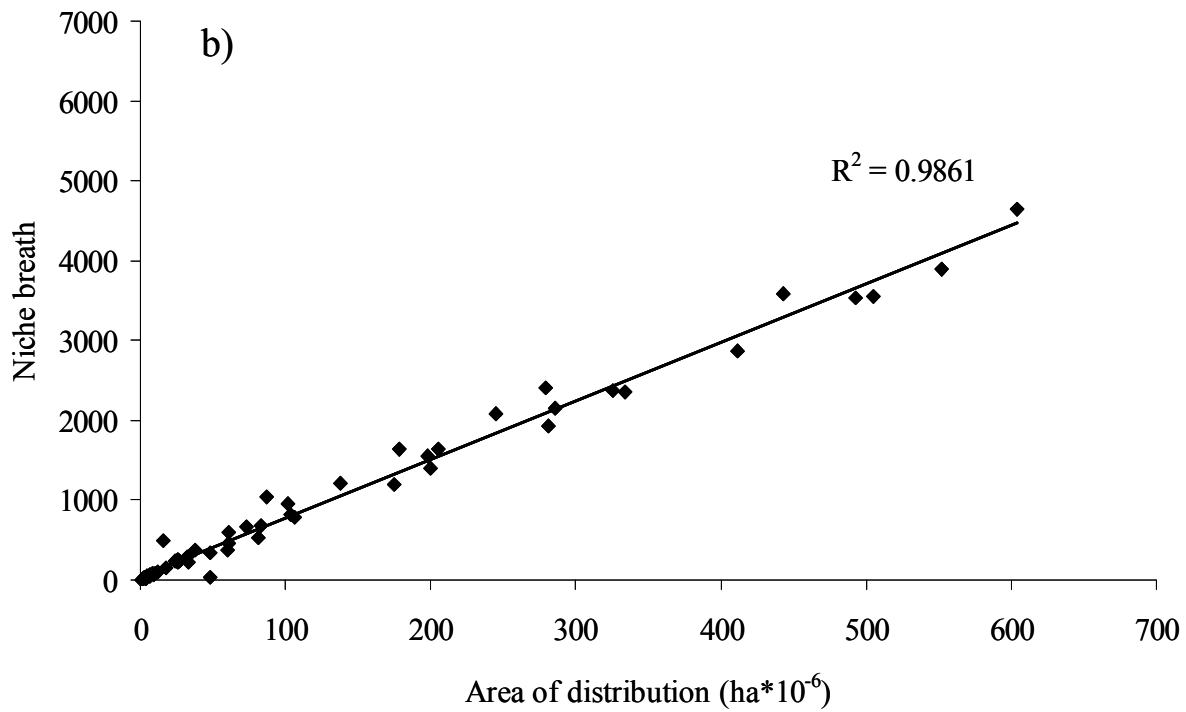
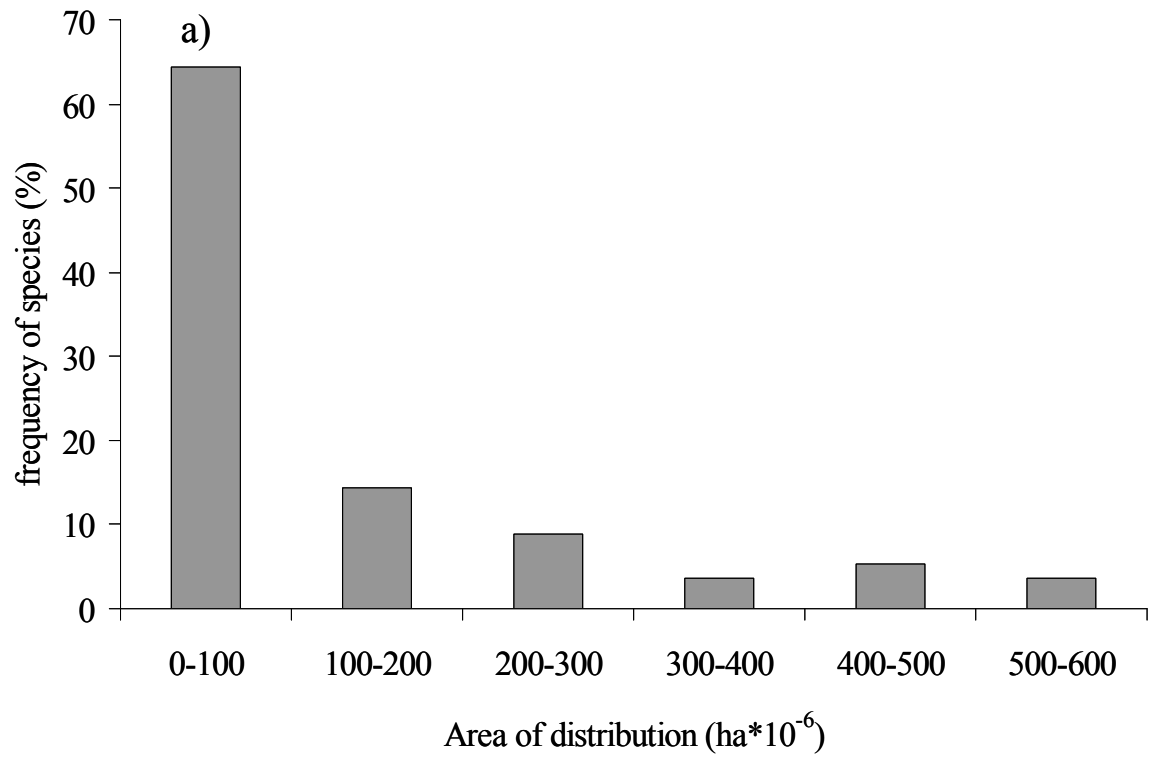


Fig. 3

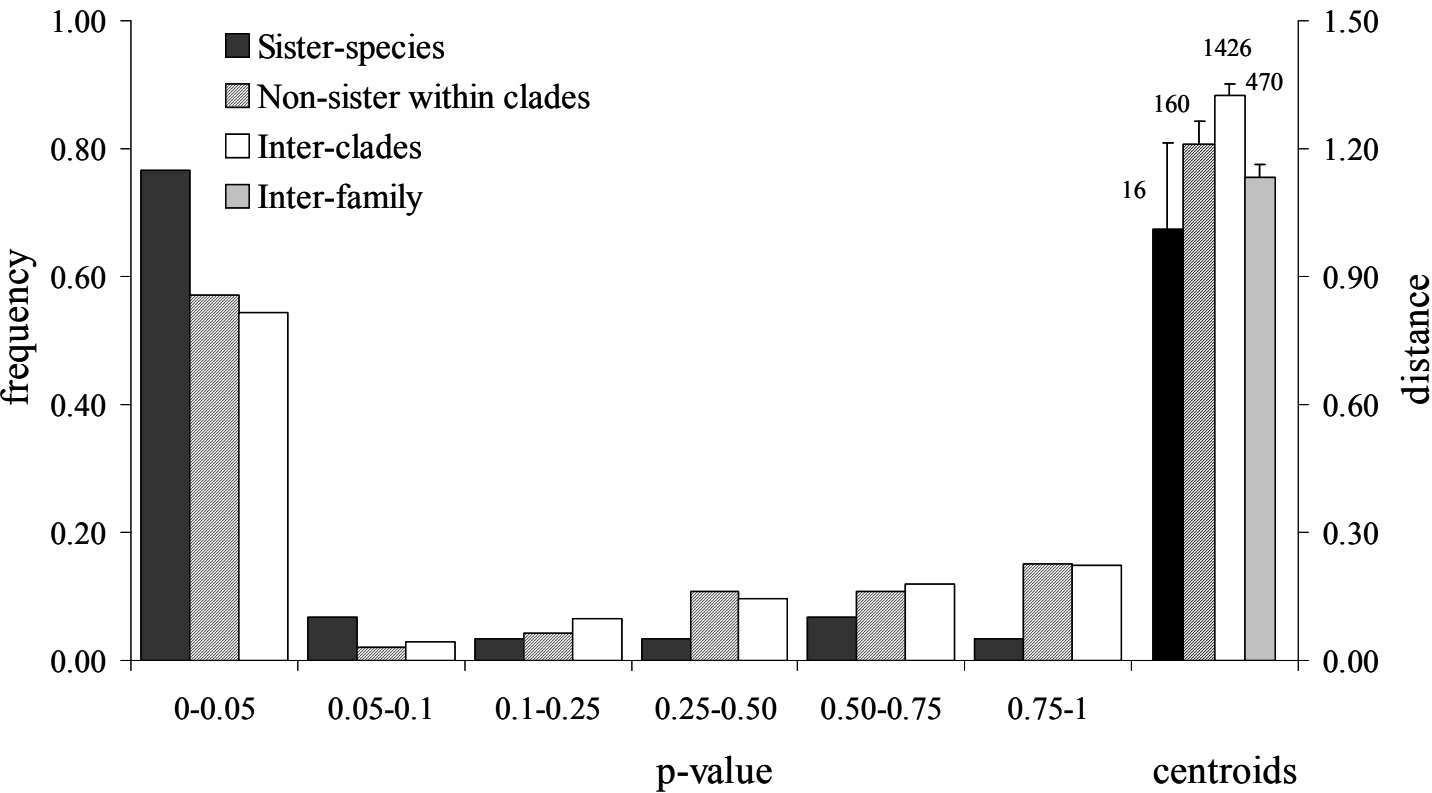


Fig. 4

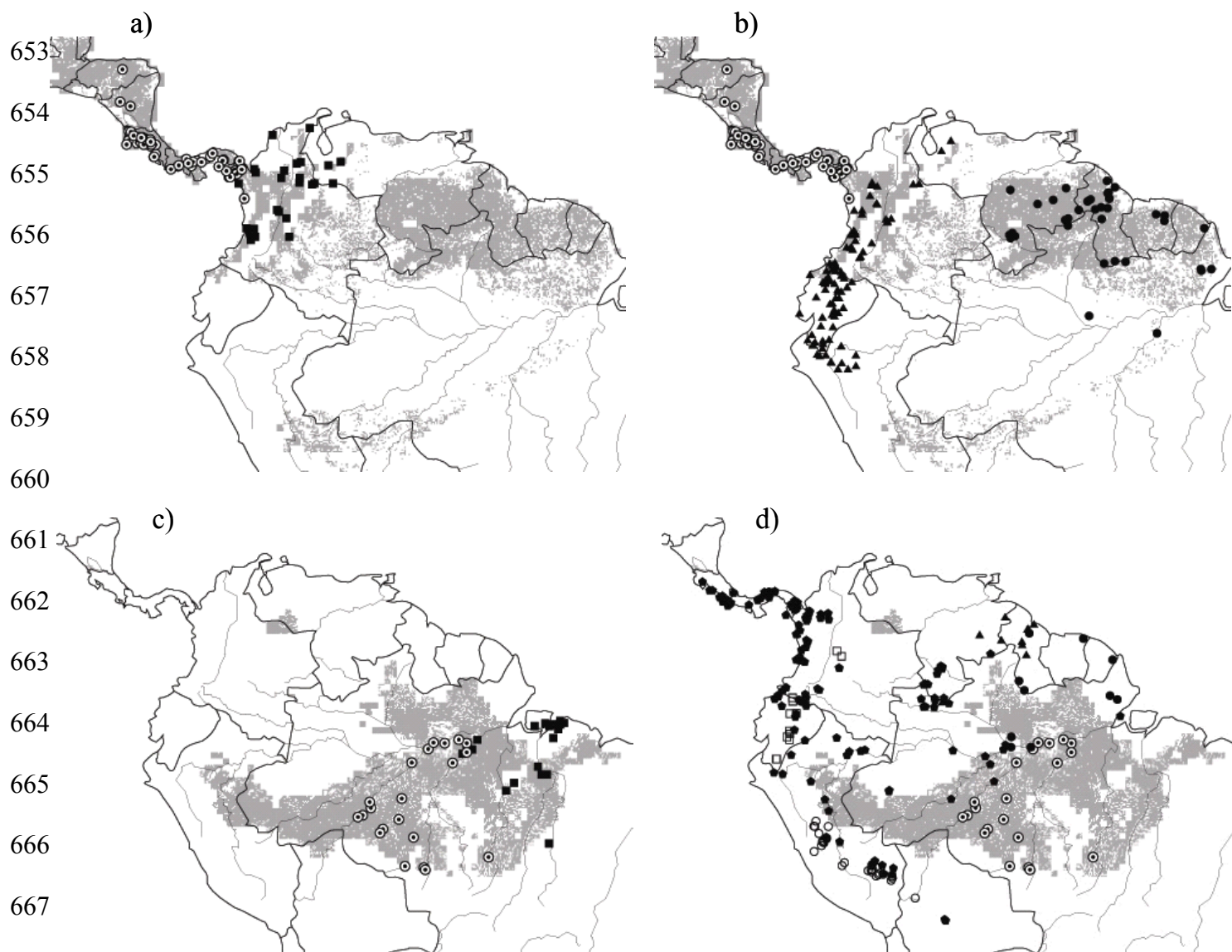


Fig. 5

# Ecological Niches of Manakins

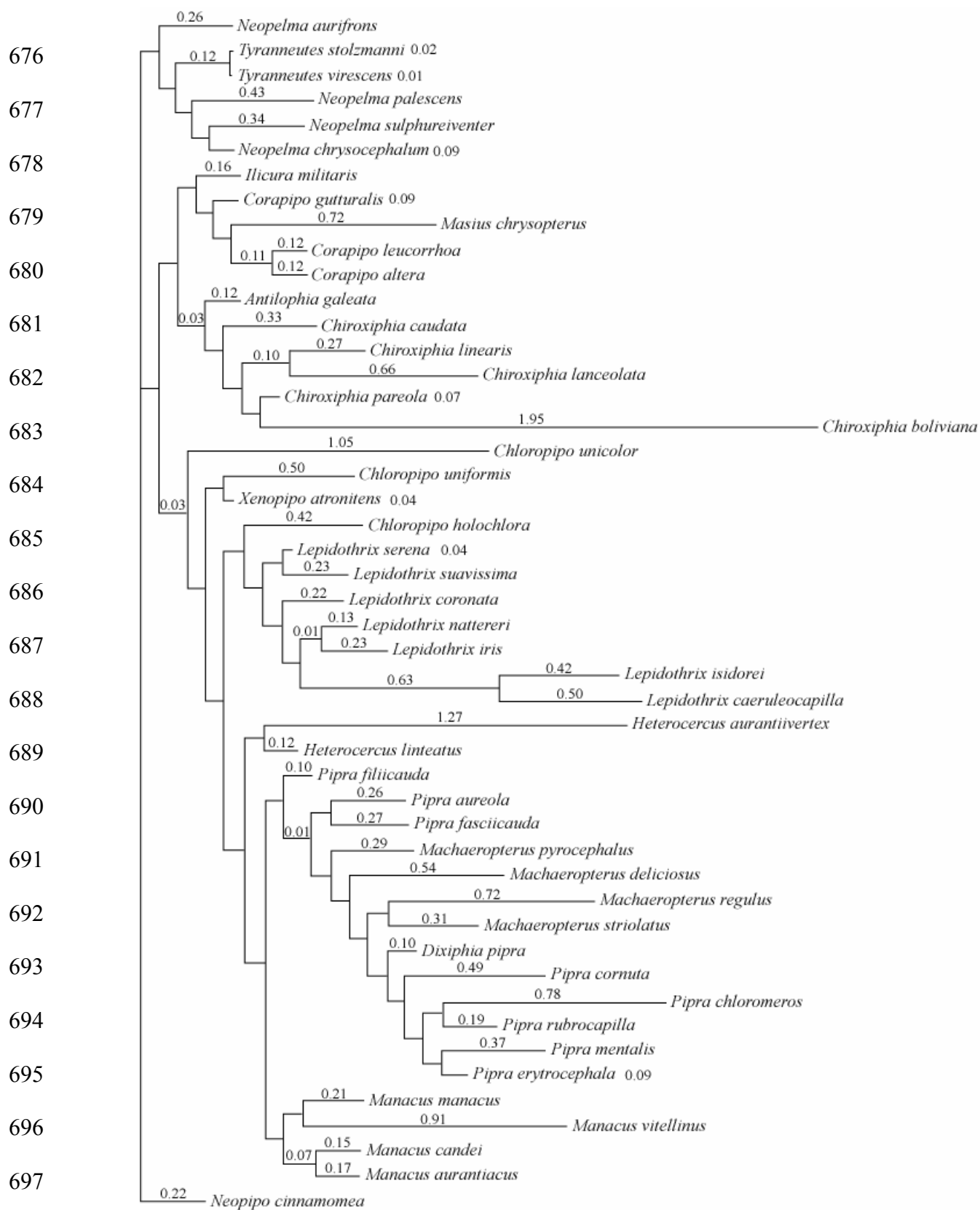


Fig. 6



Table I. Known occurrences, spatial and ecological dimensions of modeled distributions for each species. Model fit and ecological variables describing species' niches are summarized. Unique localities are at least 5 km apart from other localities, and were used for model generation; niche breadth was re-scaled to 1-10. Chi-square and p-values refer to accuracy tests for models with n localities >20. \*species with estimated distribution maps. OG = species from the outgroup.

Species	Sampled distribution		Modeled distribution			Model fit				Mean (± 1 se) of ecological variables							
	# known	# unique	regions	area	niche	$\chi^2$	p	Comm.	Omiss.	temperature		precipitation		wetdays		top. index	
	localities	localities		ha*10 <sup>6</sup>	breadth					Mean	± 1 se	Mean	± 1 se	Mean	± 1 se	Mean	± 1 se
<i>Antilophia galeata</i>	41	40	CE; AM; AF	138.23	2.41	104.63	0.00	14.02	0.00	241.38	6.49	40.73	0.46	153.11	0.13	525.18	0.55
<i>Chiroxiphia boliviana</i>	6	6	AD	6.23	0.11	-	-	3.61	0.00	165.02	99.34	23.80	2.47	72.20	1.73	2099.96	1.22
<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>	192	186	AF; CE	178.38	3.29	345.78	0.00	3.78	0.00	216.98	6.86	39.83	0.50	149.11	0.15	565.61	0.65
<i>Chiroxiphia lanceolata</i>	70	59	CC; AD; AM	24.04	0.47	97.23	0.00	12.38	0.00	250.77	45.80	42.58	1.60	102.53	1.16	508.89	2.35
<i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i>	27	26	CC	6.06	0.09	49.77	0.00	38.46	8.33	250.36	54.49	60.91	1.70	132.29	3.30	423.84	1.92
<i>Chiroxiphia pareola</i>	84	79	AF; GU; AD; AM	493.16	7.06	39.22	0.00	39.50	2.33	258.49	3.87	59.26	0.18	183.11	0.25	228.03	0.40
<i>Chloropipo flavicapilla</i> *	4	4	AD	4.20	0.11	-	-	-	-	185.63	142.70	60.70	5.77	160.41	3.59	1752.54	2.45
<i>Chloropipo holochlora</i>	50	48	CC; AD; AM	72.91	1.33	15.95	0.00	31.87	0.00	226.73	34.29	64.72	1.46	162.26	1.09	829.76	1.40
<i>Chloropipo unicolor</i>	6	6	AD; AM	8.32	0.18	-	-	7.21	0.00	186.61	67.28	28.94	3.08	127.68	1.20	1604.74	2.31
<i>Chloropipo uniformis</i>	9	6	GU	10.14	0.18	-	-	3.71	0.00	238.16	48.86	77.65	0.92	167.82	0.83	884.79	1.52
<i>Corapipo altera</i>	48	44	CC; AD	11.84	0.22	40.23	0.00	22.00	0.00	237.07	45.22	65.76	1.81	152.47	2.37	512.75	1.95
<i>Corapipo gutturalis</i>	37	36	GU; AM	103.73	1.65	41.55	0.00	22.72	5.26	257.52	9.79	65.22	0.33	179.69	0.40	254.24	0.43
<i>Corapipo heteroleuca</i>	21	19	CC	1.46	0.03	415.32	0.00	3.09	0.00	245.46	150.37	74.62	4.68	158.00	3.64	647.85	2.06
<i>Corapipo leucorrohoa</i>	28	27	CC; AD; AM	26.80	0.47	11.95	0.00	47.71	7.14	244.60	50.15	62.98	1.68	145.29	1.39	630.00	2.38
<i>Dixiphia pipra</i>	130	118	AF; GU; CC; AD; AM	505.19	7.11	55.79	0.00	22.20	1.49	252.11	8.71	65.01	0.40	177.83	0.29	354.90	0.51
<i>Heterocercus aurantiivertex</i> *	0	0	AD; AM	48.41	0.06	-	-	-	-	251.13	3.19	95.00	0.48	217.52	0.25	293.94	0.50
<i>Heterocercus flavivertex</i>	14	13	GU; AM	33.61	0.45	-	-	17.05	0.00	263.70	13.40	69.28	0.37	192.04	0.65	140.32	1.13
<i>Heterocercus lineatus</i>	15	15	CE; AM	175.14	2.38	-	-	30.05	0.00	258.94	4.13	55.80	0.18	174.21	0.18	220.76	0.73
<i>Illicura militaris</i>	90	85	AF; CE	101.47	1.90	240.18	0.00	9.43	0.00	217.03	8.35	37.92	0.60	160.62	0.20	650.99	0.54
<i>Lepidothrix caeruleocapilla</i>	28	26	AD	8.94	0.15	127.28	0.00	9.27	7.14	185.49	104.16	43.99	4.63	102.53	2.36	1465.53	1.40
<i>Lepidothrix coronata</i>	131	115	GU; CC; AD; AM	281.24	3.87	27.57	0.00	28.37	3.13	251.93	12.30	72.29	0.40	179.80	0.45	404.22	0.78
<i>Lepidothrix iris</i>	26	23	AM	61.25	0.93	52.79	0.00	12.21	0.00	261.06	4.79	56.78	0.23	195.42	0.27	165.15	0.66
<i>Lepidothrix isidorei</i>	12	11	AD	25.69	0.53	-	-	42.95	0.00	187.22	61.80	44.56	2.54	154.83	1.33	1648.22	1.54
<i>Lepidothrix nattereri</i>	23	21	AM	60.43	0.75	68.41	0.00	5.54	0.00	261.74	5.51	57.63	0.28	174.87	0.21	157.98	1.04
<i>Lepidothrix serena</i>	10	10	GU; AM	47.78	0.69	-	-	13.46	0.00	261.52	5.95	61.49	0.33	184.70	0.55	175.94	0.64
<i>Lepidothrix suavisima</i>	11	11	GU; AM	25.83	0.45	-	-	13.05	0.00	246.30	26.56	74.32	0.83	172.98	0.70	485.51	0.77
<i>Lepidothrix villasboasi</i> *	2	2	AM	0.53	0.02	-	-	-	-	265.25	27.92	59.88	1.18	187.50	1.23	114.63	0.42
<i>Machaeropterus deliciosus</i>	20	20	AD	2.75	0.07	102.93	0.00	11.37	10.00	227.57	196.19	70.65	3.10	171.35	3.28	1404.62	3.65

# Ecological Niches of Manakins

<i>Machaeropterus pyrocephalus</i>	41	39	CE; AD; AM	198.33	3.12	28.45	0.00	19.87	4.76	252.92	5.75	49.14	0.35	142.98	0.28	347.69	0.79
<i>Machaeropterus regulus</i>	20	19	AF	17.26	0.31	321.84	0.00	5.56	0.00	234.14	16.07	31.62	0.61	174.68	0.44	275.62	1.91
<i>Machaeropterus striolatus</i>	39	38	AD; AM	204.91	3.29	10.93	0.00	31.46	5.26	239.81	18.91	67.95	0.80	174.93	0.51	643.73	0.86
<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	19	17	CC	3.87	0.06	434.69	0.00	7.56	0.00	250.23	113.13	66.20	3.19	153.40	3.23	552.30	2.63
<i>Manacus candel</i>	23	22	CC	26.20	0.47	23.44	0.00	43.39	0.00	236.69	31.04	61.26	1.14	148.11	1.33	521.25	1.22
<i>Manacus manacus</i>	189	171	AF; CE; AM; GU; AD; CC	604.03	9.30	38.81	0.00	32.94	7.61	253.28	5.19	56.01	0.25	167.23	0.23	312.22	0.50
<i>Manacus milleri</i>	9	8	CC; AD	1.46	0.04	-	-	15.08	0.00	255.72	10.73	70.89	3.16	140.61	8.62	138.44	12.22
<i>Manacus viridiventris</i>	7	6	CC; AD	6.46	0.13	-	-	8.01	0.00	248.94	47.24	111.65	1.66	190.30	5.00	397.05	2.49
<i>Manacus vitellinus</i>	18	17	CC; AD	7.99	0.17	17.72	0.00	47.14	10.00	252.83	31.00	91.94	1.22	170.88	4.13	253.40	3.26
<i>Masius chrysoterpis</i>	100	91	AD; AM	60.59	1.19	46.28	0.00	21.24	0.00	209.51	41.88	53.28	1.78	153.82	1.15	1235.76	1.52
<i>Pipra aureola</i>	42	37	GU; AM	81.65	1.05	79.18	0.00	48.80	5.26	265.32	1.54	60.47	0.17	194.22	0.34	63.76	0.78
<i>Pipra chloromeros</i>	54	47	CE; AD; AM	83.18	1.38	22.90	0.00	11.16	3.57	226.08	30.63	40.70	1.51	99.83	0.74	765.02	1.10
<i>Pipra cornuta</i>	6	5	GU; AD; CC	378.00	0.03	-	-	35.19	0.00	223.47	101.52	76.18	3.90	167.59	1.67	1259.76	2.58
<i>Pipra erythrocephala</i>	164	152	GU; CC; AD; AM	411.91	5.74	38.63	0.00	35.11	7.41	257.86	6.05	65.87	0.23	174.43	0.30	256.74	0.62
<i>Pipra fasciata</i>	62	57	AF; CE; AD; AM	443.12	7.18	19.81	0.00	16.80	6.06	248.55	4.02	46.17	0.29	152.29	0.18	379.46	0.56
<i>Pipra filicauda</i>	50	46	GU; AD; AM	199.43	2.81	18.59	0.00	18.68	12.00	253.66	9.98	68.65	0.43	175.84	0.37	337.58	0.74
<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	49	49	CC; AD	32.41	0.60	21.22	0.00	25.70	4.76	245.05	26.61	77.21	0.88	160.33	1.68	431.04	1.54
<i>Pipra rubrocapilla</i>	76	69	AF; AM	334.09	4.72	69.85	0.00	42.06	2.70	260.98	2.34	54.70	0.13	184.65	0.25	189.13	0.44
<i>Xenopipo atronitens</i>	29	28	GU; AM	285.53	4.29	35.54	0.00	14.62	6.67	260.24	3.66	61.58	0.14	185.85	0.23	204.99	0.34
<i>Neopelma aurifrons</i> <sup>OG</sup>	8	8	AF	38.20	0.74	-	-	54.26	0.00	214.14	13.64	34.48	0.80	162.97	0.35	655.98	0.75
<i>Neopelma chrysocephalum</i> <sup>OG*</sup>	1	1	GU; AM	86.46	2.08	-	-	-	-	253.70	12.73	66.97	0.45	172.59	0.44	373.79	0.55
<i>Neopelma palescens</i> <sup>OG</sup>	15	15	AF; CE; AM	279.19	4.81	-	-	48.11	0.00	247.76	4.86	42.53	0.30	170.83	0.24	427.62	0.35
<i>Neopelma sulphureiventer</i> <sup>OG*</sup>	1	1	AM	15.54	0.98	-	-	-	-	257.15	8.42	55.41	0.50	145.41	0.46	265.61	1.71
<i>Neopipo cinnamomea</i> <sup>OG</sup>	12	11	AD; GU; AM	244.76	4.15	-	-	44.63	0.00	249.98	9.55	60.58	0.41	161.87	0.32	404.87	0.59
<i>Piprites chloris</i> <sup>OG</sup>	17	16	AF; CE; GU; AM; AD	325.72	4.76	-	-	-	0.00	251.78	6.74	59.28	0.44	171.35	0.17	281.16	0.69
<i>Piprites gris</i> <sup>OG*</sup>	0	0	CC	3.46	0.08	-	-	-	-	254.87	9.37	87.79	1.48	166.59	2.37	54.92	3.63
<i>Piprites pileatus</i> <sup>OG*</sup>	2	2	AF	24.69	0.48	-	-	-	-	189.22	20.80	43.25	0.96	170.46	0.29	707.37	1.24
<i>Tyrannetes stoltzmanni</i> <sup>OG</sup>	17	16	GU; AD; AM	552.10	7.78	6.83	0.01	36.52	9.09	255.87	5.16	61.76	0.24	175.00	0.22	276.59	0.52
<i>Tyrannetes virescens</i> <sup>OG*</sup>	1	1	GU; AM	106.12	1.58	-	-	-	-	256.69	10.24	61.60	0.45	175.79	0.44	262.19	0.55

AF = Atlantic Forest; CE = Cerrado; AM = Amazon; AD = Andes; GU = Guiana; CC = Central America-Choco.

Table II. Summary of Mantel statistics testing the associations between the geographic and ecological distance matrices. For positive correlations ( $r > 0$ ), the null hypothesis of no significant correlation is rejected if the probability of random values of  $Z$  being greater than the observed  $Z$  is smaller than 0.05. Significant results are highlighted. OG = Outgroup species.

Genera	$r^2$	Matrix Correlation $r$	<i>Mantel-t</i>	$P$	$P Z_o > Z_r$	$P Z_r > Z_o$	$n$ points
<i>Chiroxiphia</i>	0.087	-0.296	-0.909	0.182	0.182	0.797	10
<i>Chloropipo - Xenopipo</i>	0.160	0.221	0.482	0.283	0.482	0.283	6
<i>Corapipo - Masius</i>	0.414	0.643	1.296	0.207	0.903	0.207	6
<i>Heterocercus</i>	0.972	0.986	0.000	0.167	0.500	0.167	3
<i>Lepidothrix</i>	0.518	0.720	3.395	<b>0.004</b>	1.000	0.004	28
<i>Manacus</i>	0.016	-0.128	-0.371	0.355	0.355	0.458	15
<i>Pipra-Machaeropterus</i>	0.265	0.545	0.834	0.151	0.798	0.151	28
<i>Neopelma-Tyranneutes</i> <sup>OG</sup>	0.805	0.897	2.808	<b>0.044</b>	0.998	0.044	10