

1 Ecological niches and their evolution among Neotropical manakins

2 (Aves: Pipridae)

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## *Ecological Niches of Manakins*

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

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

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

54 Recent studies have focused on conservatism of ecological niche characteristics, asking  
55 whether these features are evolutionary labile or not, over different evolutionary time periods  
56 (e.g. Peterson et al. 1999, Prinzig et al. 2001, Webb et al. 2002, Losos et al. 2003, Rice et al.  
57 2003, Graham et al. 2004, Knouft et al. 2006, Wiens et al. 2006, Wellenreuther et al. 2007). Most  
58 of these studies do not consider biotic factors, such as competition or the role of species in  
59 communities, in describing ecological niches of species, and thus are based on pioneering  
60 concepts of ecological niches (review in Chase and Leibold 2003). At the shallowest level,  
61 species invasions have been used to investigate whether the ecological 'niche' (at coarse spatial  
62 scales) of a species depends on the community makeup in which they are distributed, with the  
63 general result that they appear quite insensitive (Peterson 2003a). This result indicates that  
64 abiotic factors are frequently suitable for describing ecological niches of species, and also  
65 corroborates expectations from neutral theory concerning niche differentiation in ecological  
66 communities (Hubbel 2001). Second, a few studies have assessed the predictivity between  
67 present-day and Pleistocene geographic distributions (over time periods of  $10^3$ - $10^4$  yr) and their

68 ecological characteristics, again concluding conservative niche evolution (Martínez-Meyer et al.  
69 2004, Martínez-Meyer et al. 2006). Finally, studies comparing ecological niche characteristics  
70 between sister species pairs, and deeper into phylogenetic history, have revealed ecological niche  
71 conservatism over time periods of at least  $10^4$ - $10^6$  yr, and breakdown of that conservatism over  
72 longer time periods (Huntley et al. 1989, Martínez-Meyer 2002, Peterson et al. 1999, Rice et al.  
73 2003). Overall, the picture is one of ecological niche conservatism over short-to-medium periods  
74 of evolutionary time, coinciding with recent theoretical results (Holt and Gaines 1992, Holt and  
75 Gomulkiewicz 1996, review in Wiens 2004) and providing a fascinating context for a predictive  
76 understanding of ecological and geographic phenomena in biodiversity (Soberón and Peterson  
77 2004, 2005, Wiens and Graham 2005). This result, nonetheless, is based on a relatively small  
78 sample of studies, placing a premium on additional analyses addressing evolutionary  
79 conservatism of ecological niche characteristics and consequences for speciation and  
80 biogeography.

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

87 The manakins (Aves: Pipridae) are a diverse clade of small frugivorous birds distributed  
88 across the Neotropics (Ridgely and Tudor 1994, Snow 2004). All told, the family includes ~45  
89 species, depending on the taxonomic treatment followed, and several clades broadly distributed  
90 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.).

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## 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,

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

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

128 All modeling in this study was carried out on a desktop implementation of GARP (Pereira  
129 2002). In GARP, available occurrence points are divided evenly into data sets for model building  
130 (25% for model training and 25% for intrinsic testing and tuning of models) and extrinsic test  
131 data sets (50%) for model evaluation. GARP is designed to work based on presence-only data;  
132 absence information is included in the modeling via sampling of pseudo-absence points from the  
133 set of pixels where the species has not been detected, and thus its probability of presence is  
134 decidedly below unity. Models were generated through intrinsic data sets alone when sample  
135 sizes were <20 known locality points. GARP works in an iterative process of rule selection,  
136 evaluation, testing, and incorporation or rejection: first, a method is chosen from a set of

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

146 To optimize model quality, we developed 100 replicate models for each species, and selected  
147 the 10 best models using a best-practices procedure for identifying optimal models (Anderson et  
148 al. 2003). This procedure is based on the observation that (i) models vary in quality; (ii) variation  
149 among models involves an inverse relationship between errors of omission (leaving out true  
150 distributional area) and errors of commission (including areas not actually inhabited); and (iii)  
151 best models (as judged by experts blind to error statistics) are clustered in a region of minimum  
152 omission of independent test points and moderate commission error. Specifically, we used a soft  
153 omission threshold, focusing on the extreme 20% of the distribution of omission values across  
154 models. We then chose models presenting intermediate levels of commission (i.e., the central  
155 50% of the commission index distribution). The 10 best models were summed in ArcView 3.2,  
156 and we took as a best and most conservative distributional estimate the areas predicted present  
157 by all of these models.

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

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

173 *Analyses.*— The overall diversity of manakins was estimated by summing final distributional  
174 models (i.e., *actual* distributional estimates) across all species. We divided the study region into  
175 6 ecoregions, based on known distributional limits of the main biomes and biogeographic regions  
176 in the Neotropics (Amazon, Andes, Guianas, Atlantic Forest, Central America - Chocó,  
177 Cerrado), and estimated numbers of species predicted to occur in each region based on presences  
178 and absences in the final distributional models. To control for area effects, we standardized  
179 numbers of species by the total area of each region.

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

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

194       Similarity or difference of ecological niches among species was measured in two ways,  
195 following Martínez-Meyer (2002). (1) We used pairwise Euclidean distances between centroids  
196 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  
197 the distribution of species A, and likewise  $v_{iB}$  for species B. (2) We also measured ecological  
198 similarity via interpredictivity between the model for one species and the distribution for the  
199 other (Peterson et al. 1999). Here, we overlaid the potential distribution estimates for a particular  
200 species on the occurrence points of another species, and interpredictivity was measured as the  
201 proportion of points successfully predicted. We tested for spatial autocorrelation effects on  
202 ecological similarity among taxa by calculating geographic centroids of species' predicted  
203 distributions using the Centroid option in ArcGis 8.0, and computing pairwise Euclidean  
204 distances between distributions of species in geographic space. Associations between pairwise

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

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

216

## 217 **Results**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

274

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

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

300 The comparative approach used here required a large, inclusive region for model  
301 development for all species, as models had to be developed based on the same environmental  
302 data. The geographic heterogeneity of this broad region made it necessary to trim species'  
303 potential distributions to be able to estimate their *actual* distributions. ENM estimates of  
304 potential distributions are roughly equivalent to fundamental niches (sensu Hutchinson 1957),  
305 except for consideration of geographic and historical factors as well (Soberón and Peterson  
306 2005). The 'overpredictions' that are the difference between potential and actual distributions  
307 (Anderson et al. 2003, Phillips et al. 2006) actually make possible synthetic evolutionary and  
308 ecological applications (Peterson et al. 1999, Peterson and Vieglais 2001, Anderson et al. 2002,  
309 Peterson et al. 2007). Considering overall niche similarity among closely related manakins, for  
310 example, and predictivity of parapatric distributions between closely related species within the  
311 Amazon Basin (Haffer 1974), low occupancy of potential distributions suggests that rivers  
312 represent barriers to dispersal that may be involved in the speciation process (Wallace 1852,  
313 Haffer 1992). Wiens (2004) discussed the idea that ecological similarity is expected to be  
314 frequent across barriers to dispersal among closely-related taxa. Nevertheless, studies of  
315 ecological niches focusing on narrower geographic scales and conducted on a per species basis,  
316 or species complexes, will be able to depict more accurately the level of ecological similarity  
317 among closely related taxa, which was not within the scope of this study.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

386

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566 **Figure Legends**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

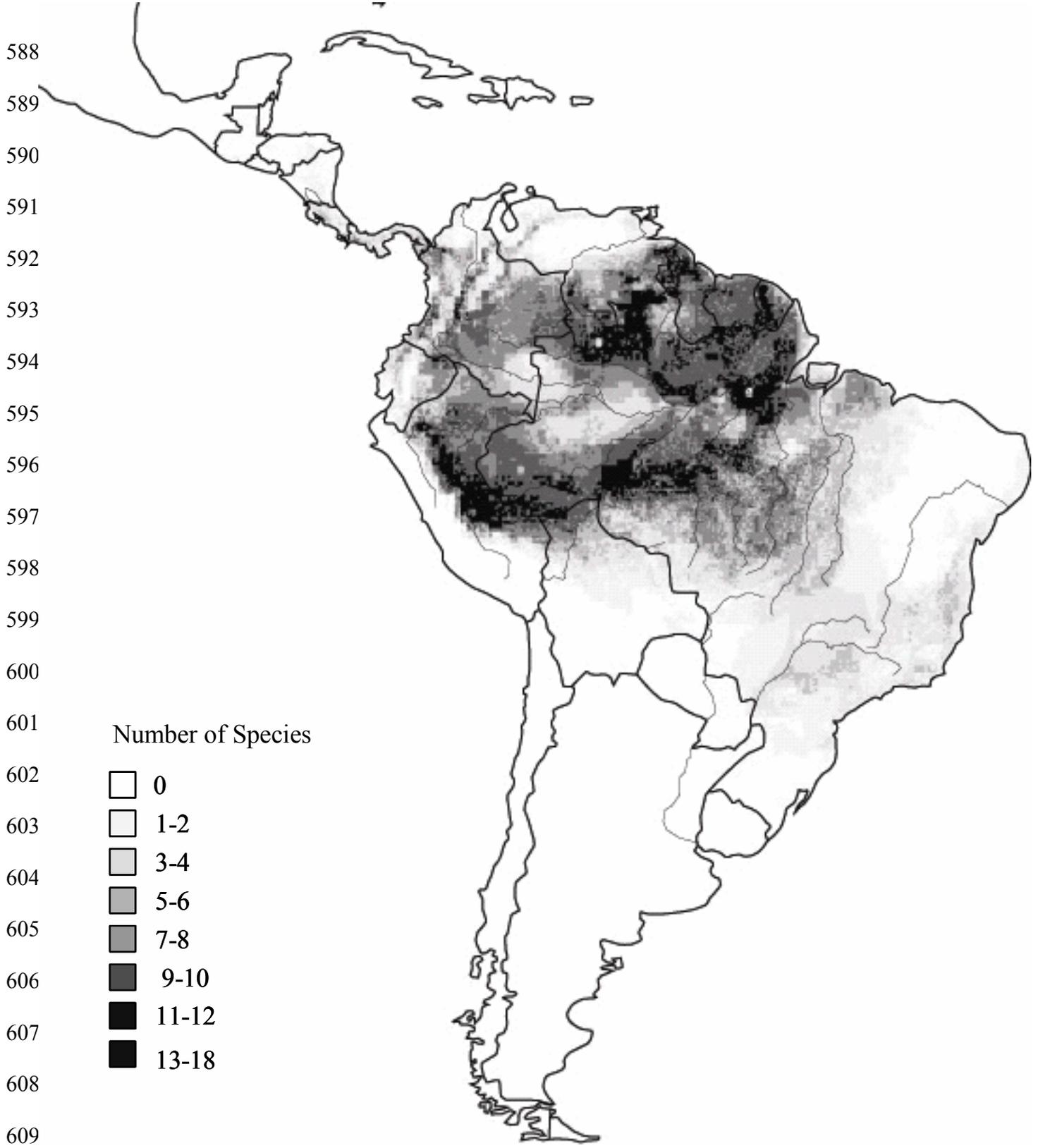
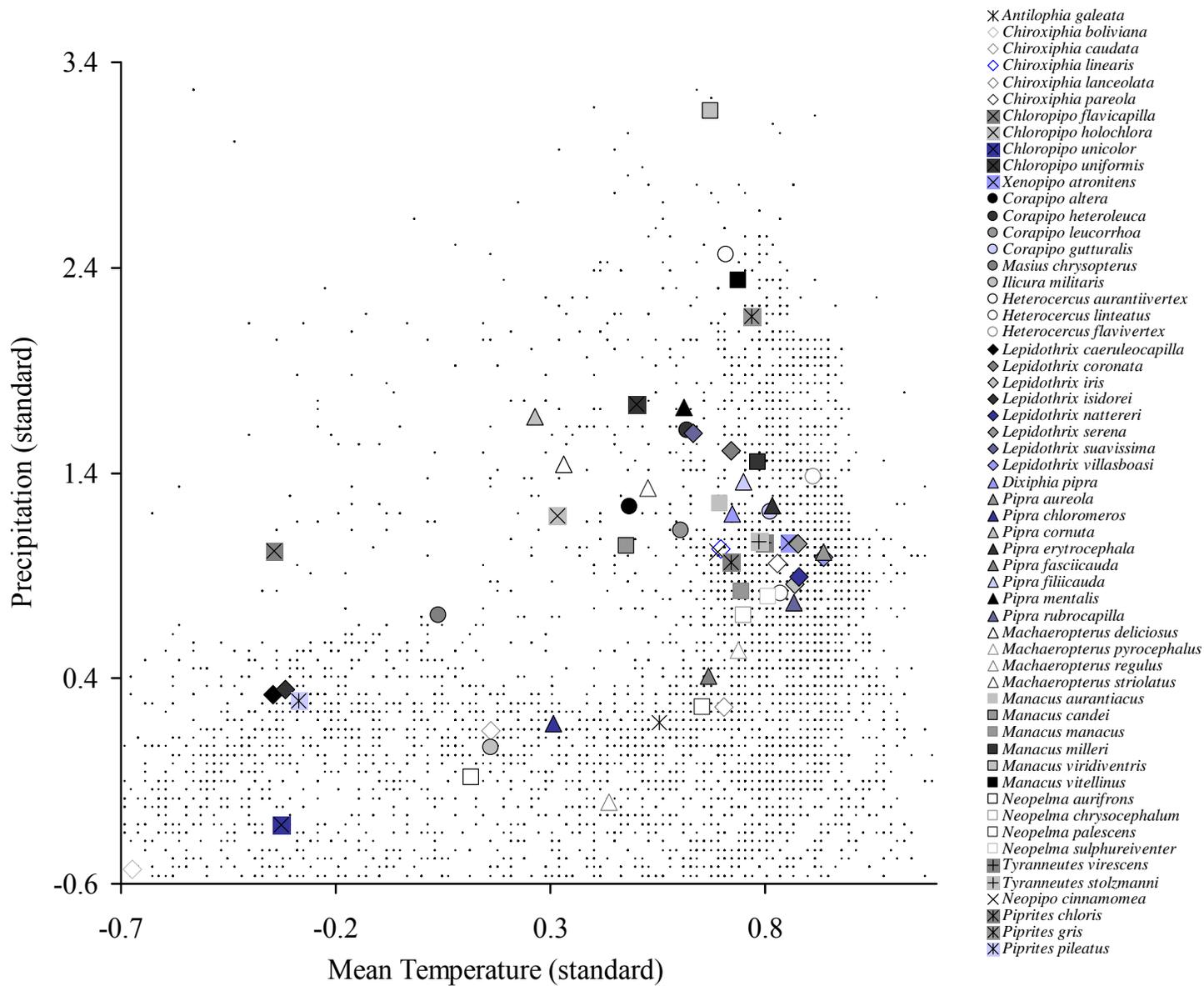


Fig. 1

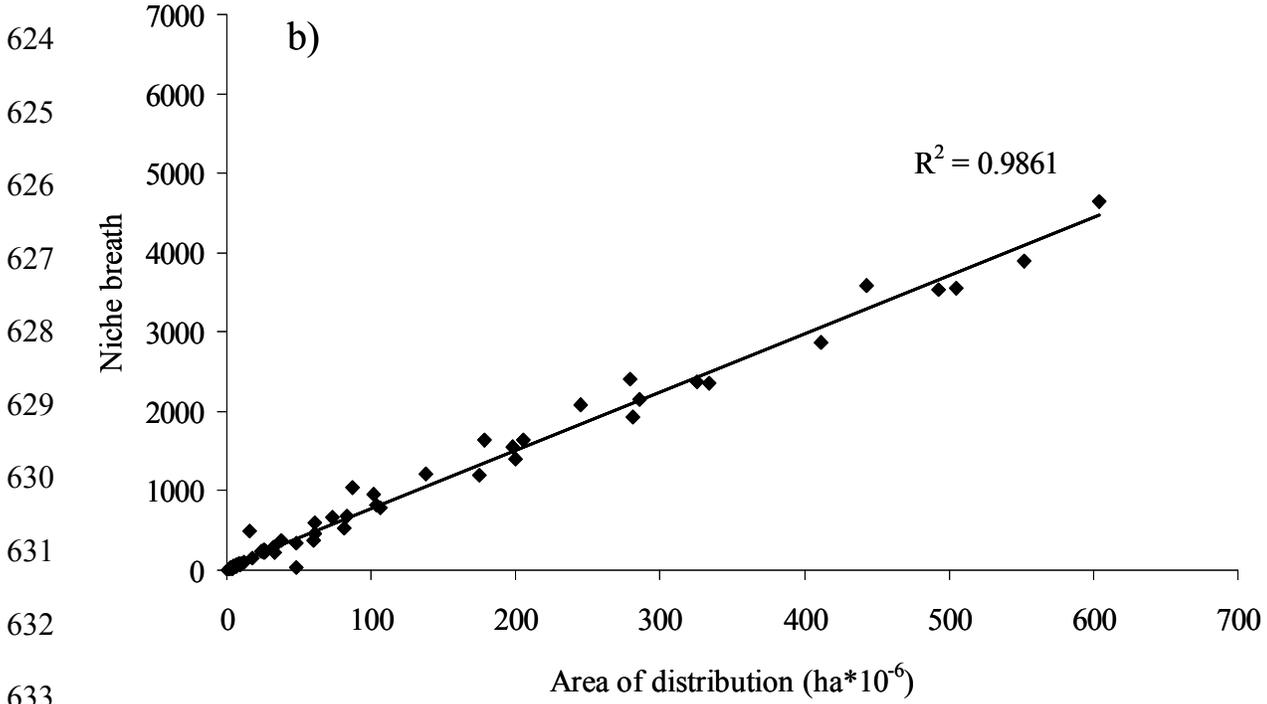
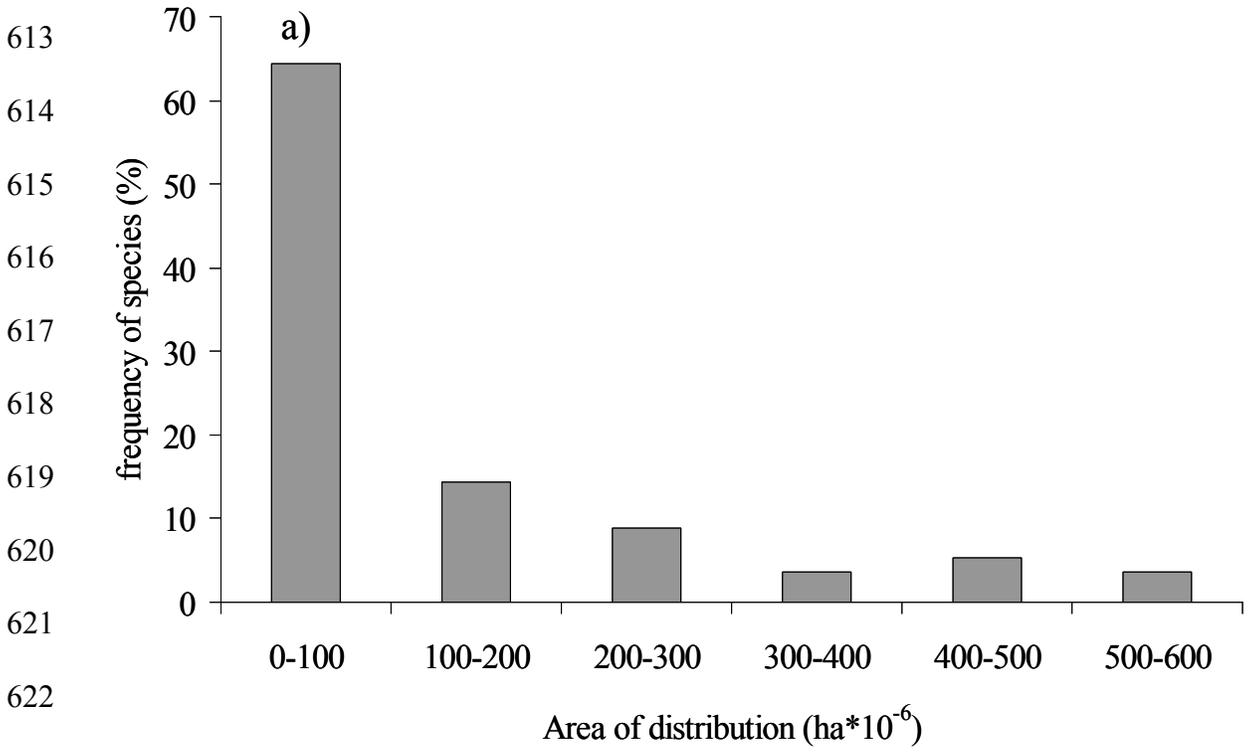


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Fig. 2

Ecological Niches of Manakins



635 Fig. 3

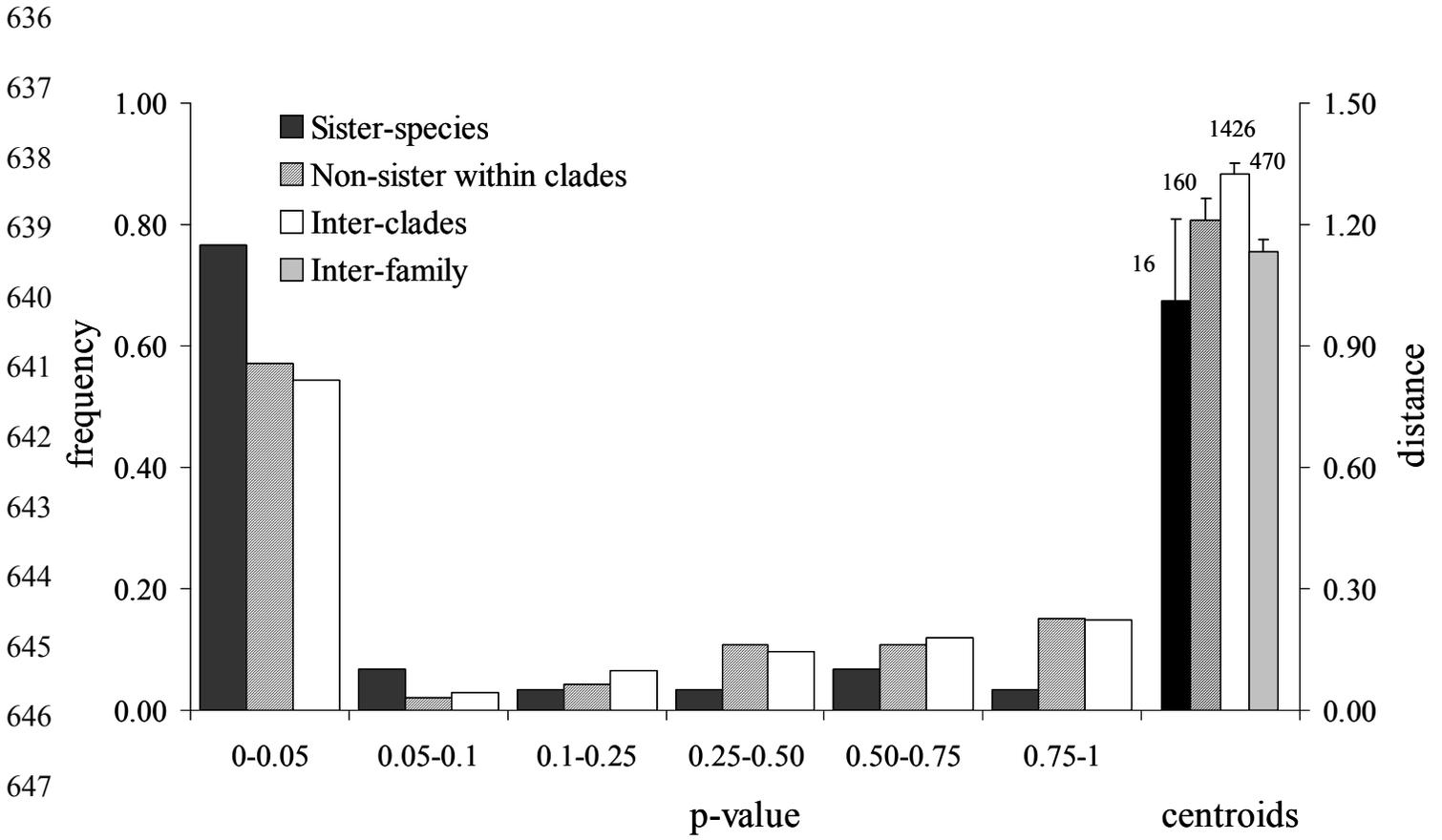


Fig. 4

*Ecological Niches of Manakins*

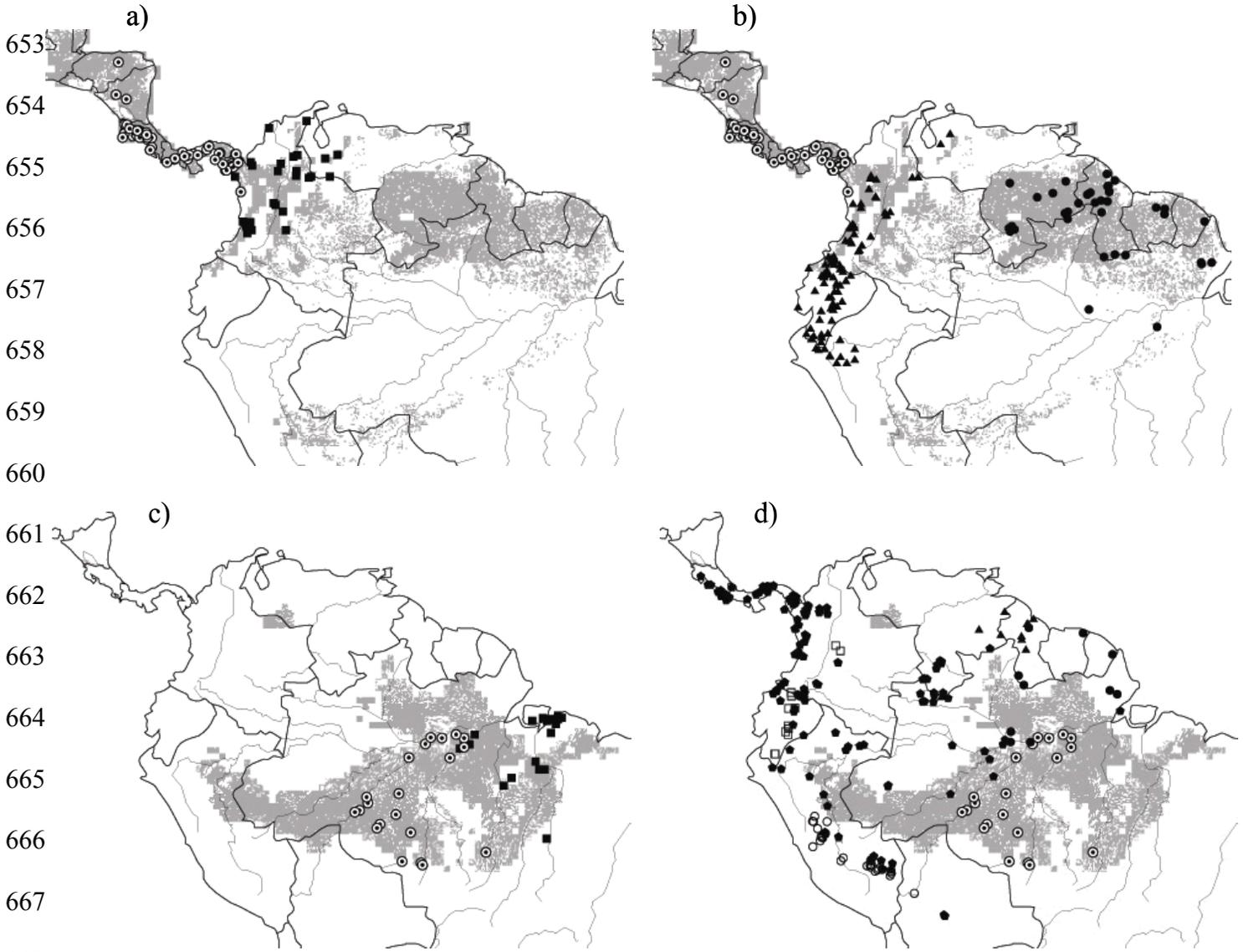


Fig. 5

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Ecological Niches of Manakins

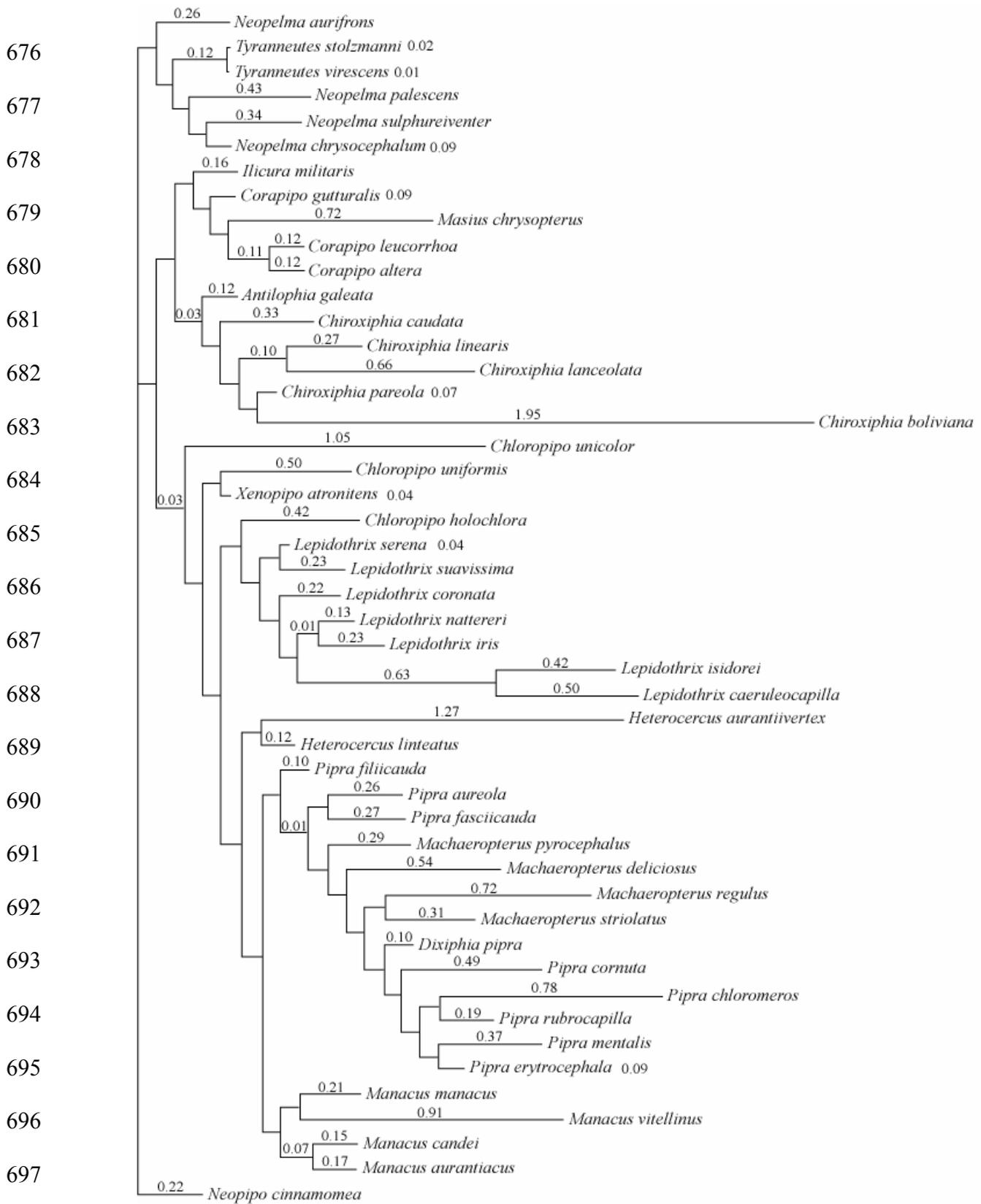


Fig. 6

699 Table I. Known occurrences, spatial and ecological dimensions of modeled distributions for each species. Model fit and ecological variables describing  
 700 species' niches are summarized. Unique localities are at least 5 km apart from other localities, and were used for model generation; niche breadth was  
 701 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 =  
 702 species from the outgroup.

Species	Sampled distribution		Modeled distribution			Model fit				Mean ( $\pm$ 1 se) of ecological variables							
	# known	# unique	regions	area	niche	$X^2$	p	Comm.	Omiss.	temperature		precipitation		wetdays		top. index	
	localities	localities		ha*10 <sup>6</sup>	breadth					Mean	$\pm$ 1 se	Mean	$\pm$ 1 se	Mean	$\pm$ 1 se	Mean	$\pm$ 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>Ilicura 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 suavissima</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

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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 candei</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 chrysopterus</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>Tyrannutes 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>Tyrannutes 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.

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

710  
 711  
 712

Genera	$r^2$	Matrix Correlation $r$	<i>Mantel-t</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i> $Z_o > Z_r$	<i>P</i> $Z_r > Z_o$	<i>n</i> 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