Modelling the spread of invading organisms: accounting for long-distance dispersal and landscape heterogeneity



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Biological invasion models: Skellam's model

• Skellam (1951) introduced the diffusion of individuals in a random Brownian motion into the Malthusian (unlimited) population growth model.

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = D\left(\frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial y^2}\right) + rn$$

Mathematical solution

$$n_{(x,y,t)} = \frac{n_{(0,0,0)}}{4\pi Dt} \exp(rt - \frac{x^2 + y^2}{4Dt})$$

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Biological invasion models: Skellam's model



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Biological invasion models: Fisher's model



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Biological invasion models: some practical limitations

- Random walk vs. correlated random walk
- Dispersal of invasive species results from the combination of short-distance (autonomous) and long-distance (anthropogenic) dispersal: <u>stratified dispersal</u>.
- Some invasions show an accelerating velocity, that deviates from the predictions of Skellam and Fisher models.
- Invasion models assume homogeneous environment

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## The horse chestnut leafminer Cameraria ohridella



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## The horse chestnut leafminer Cameraria ohridella



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# A fast invasion...



Unknown origin and first observed in the Balkans (lake Ohrid)

 Very few natural enemies, with very little impact (parasitoids, ants, birds, spiders)

Fast population growth, rarely goes extinct

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## Surveys to monitor the spread (FR & DE)



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## Interpolated distribution Germany 1996-1999





Irregular invasion front line

Accelerating spread rate

Apparent association with human population density



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## Monte-Carlo simulation model: cellular automata

- (a) the spatial domain is divided in cells of equal size, occupied (1) or empty (0).
  All simulations start from the same t<sub>0</sub> distribution (in this case the distribution of *Cameraria ohridella* in southeastern Germany in 1995)
- (b) For each pixel, the probability of presence is estimate as a function of the distance to the nearest occupied cell in the previous time step, and as a function of an external variable.
- (c) Based on a random trial the probability of presence in each pixel is set as occupied (1), or empty (0), which provides the presence/absence distribution at time t<sub>+1</sub>
- Steps (b) (c) are repeated over *n* time steps (in this case, the simulations were run over 4 years x 3 generations; 12 time steps)

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### Monte-Carlo simulation model: cellular automata

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#### Monte-Carlo simulation model: cellular automata



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# **Different invasion models**





# Qualitative and quantitative assessment



#### FD 1.806 ± 0.0075

Model	Parameters	SSE	$R^2$	Fractal dimension
Diffusion	$\alpha = 1.58  10^{-9}$	956.6	0.218	1.540 ± 0.0243
Leptokurtic dispersal	$\alpha = 0.0229$	761.2	0.378	1.953 ± 0.0074
Stratified dispersal	$\alpha = 2.5 \ 10^{-8}, \ \beta = -7.0, \ \gamma = 4.0 \ 10^{-11}$	760.1	0.379	1.806 ± 0.0122
Stratified dispersal & H. pop.	$\alpha = 2.5 \ 10^{-8}, \ \beta = -6.7, \ \gamma = 4.2 \ 10^{-11}, \ \phi = 2.1$	663.5	0.458	1.771 ± 0.0118

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# Validating the model in France



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# Predicting the spread in the United Kingdom



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# Accounting for long-distance dispersal and landscape heterogeneity

- Long distance dispersal is accounted for by the long-distance component of the stratified dispersal kernel.
- Landscape heterogeneity is viewed through one single variable, i.e. human population density.
- Can we accommodate multiple variables ?
- How can we circumvent the problem of finding the best-fit parameters ?

J. Appl. Ecol. (2005) 42:805-813. J. Anim. Ecol (2004) 73:459-468.

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# Bovine tuberculosis in Great-Britain



# Invasion model

In a previous analysis the distribution was found associated to

- Distance to the nearest previous TB case
- Cattle density
- Landuse and climatic variables

Attempt to develop a stratified dispersal model including:

- Short-distance spread (adjacent cells only)
- Long-distance spread: movement of animals as recorded in the Cattle Tracing System (CTS, VLA)
- External factors: variable already identified.

Use of logistic regressions to identify best-fit parameters for the model.

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# Cattle movements



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## **Predictive model**



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# Conclusions

- Long-distance dispersal events are accounted for by a two-scale dispersal kernel
- Landscape heterogeneity is accounted for by differential probabilities of as a function of local conditions
- Allows short-term predictions provided that the invasion is under a stationary regime, and in similar environmental/landscape conditions
- Does not allow quantitative population estimates
- Difficult to relate to life-history parameters (e.g. growth rate, Diffusion etc.)
- Heavy processing

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