Supplementary file 3

Model AIC values. Table showing AIC of the models tested. The first model (m1) is always the full model with all explanatory variables and the two-way interaction between those variables. Variables and interactions are shown for each model and the following abbreviations are used; “treesp” = tree species, “canopyc” = canopy cover. Interactions are shown with “:” between variables. The “best” model (lowest AIC) and alternative plausible models (∆AIC <2) are given in bold.

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| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Bryophytes** | |  |  |  | | Model | Included explanatory variables | df | AIC | ∆AIC | | bm1 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc+age:canopyc | 11 | -192.84 | 5.25 | | bm2 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc | 10 | -194.57 | 3.51 | | bm3 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age | 8 | -196.93 | **1.15** | | bm4 | treesp+age+teesp:age | 7 | -198.09 | **0.00** | | bm\_null | | 2 | -181.02 | 17.06 | | **Lichens** |  |  |  |  | | Model |  | df | AIC | ∆AIC | | lm1 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc+age:canopyc | 11 | -692.32 | **1.93** | | lm2 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc | 10 | -694.25 | **0.00** | | lm3 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:canopyc | 8 | -693.93 | **0.32** | | lm4 | treesp+age+canopyc | 6 | -678.03 | 16.21 | | lm\_null |  | 2 | -660.32 | 33.93 | | **Eudicots** | |  |  |  | | Model |  | df | AIC | ∆AIC | | em1 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc+age:canopyc | 11 | -122.81 | 6.81 | | em2 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc | 10 | -124.58 | 5.04 | | em3 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age | 8 | -128.24 | **1.38** | | em4 | treesp+age+treesp:age | 7 | -129.17 | **0.44** | | em5 | treesp+age | 5 | -129.62 | **0.00** | | em\_null | | 2 | -92.28 | 37.34 | | **Grasses** |  |  |  |  | | Model |  | df | AIC | ∆AIC | | gm1 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc+age:canopyc | 11 | -269.08 | **0.00** | | gm2 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc | 10 | -269.07 | **0.01** | | gm3 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age | 8 | -262.30 | 6.79 | | gm4 | treesp+age+canopyc | 6 | -259.89 | 9.19 | | gm\_null |  | 2 | -210.19 | 58.90 | | **Total Vascular Plants (TVP)** | |  |  |  | | Model |  | df | AIC | ∆AIC | | vm1 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc+age:canopyc | 11 | -126.14 | **1.88** | | vm2 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc | 10 | -128.02 | **0.00** | | vm3 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age | 8 | -126.46 | **1.56** | | vm4 | treesp+age+canopyc | 6 | -120.38 | 7.64 | | vm\_null |  | 2 | -78.54 | 49.48 | | **No vegetation** | |  |  |  | | Model |  | df | AIC | ∆AIC | | nm1 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc+age:canopyc | 11 | -448.65 | 2.10 | | nm2 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age+treesp:canopyc | 10 | -450.10 | **0.65** | | nm3 | treesp+age+canopyc+treesp:age | 8 | -450.75 | **0.00** | | nm4 | treesp + age + canopyc | 6 | -449.37 | **1.38** | | nm\_null | | 2 | -357.57 | 93.18 | | |  |  |  |
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