# What do beta diversity components reveal from presence-absence community data? Let us connect every indicator to an indicandum! 

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This supplementary material complements the main paper by explaining under which circumstances the Richness diffence Pairwise Pattern Component (PPC) can be interpreted as the nestednessrelated component of beta diversity. Intepretation depends on the presence and absence of Overlap and Richness difference PPCs, when nestedness is defined in the strict sense (i.e. nestedness is defined such that species of one site is proper subset of those in the other). Supplementary Fig. 1 shows that Richness difference PPC forms the nestedness-related component of beta diversity only when both Overlap and Richness difference PPC exist. When Richness difference PPC is present but Overlap PPC is not, then nestedness does not exist and thus the Richness difference PPC cannot be interpreted as the nestedness-related component of beta diversity. If Richness difference PPC is absent, then Richness difference PPC cannot be the nestedness related component of beta diversity because neither the PPC nor nestedness exists.

Supplementary Table 1 summarizes the existing and new measures quantifying PPCs and derived concepts. The table shows that these measures are indicators of the ecological concepts formulated by PPCs in any presence-absence based community pattern occuring in nature. Supplementary Table 2 summarizes the existing methods of beta diversity partitioning via examining pairs of sites based on presence-absence data.

The three other tables show how replacement (Suppl. Table 3), nestedness-related (Suppl. Table 4) and richness difference (Suppl. Table 5) components of beta diversity partitions satisfy the properties defined in the main document.

Finally, Supplementary Appendix 1 provides an R sript for the calculation of the intersection of nestedness and beta diversity (I) and the relative complement of nestedness in beta diversity ( $R C$ ).

## Overlap PPC



Supplementary Fig. 1: A schematic representation of how Richness Difference PPC can be interpreted as the nestedness-related fraction of beta diversity depending on the presence and absence of Overlap and Richness difference PPCs, when nestedness is interpreted in the strict sense (Strict nestedness). Rich. diff. = Richness difference, Repl. = Replacement. Note that this figure differs from Fig. 2 of the main document in that here nestedness is interpreted as strict nestedness (while in Fig. 2 as Broad nestedness). The difference manifested when Overlap PPC is present and Richness difference PPC is absent (left bottom subfigures). In broad sense nestedness definition (Fig. 2 of the main document) both nestedness and beta diversity concepts exist but Richness difference PPC cannot be their common fraction because it does not exist. In strict sense nestedness definition (this figure), Richness difference PPC cannot be the common fraction of (strict) nestedness and beta diversity because Richness difference PPC, as well as the concept of (strict) nestedness do not exist.

1 Supplementary Table 1: The different measurement systems to quantify the size of the PPCs and derived concepts. The $a, b$ and $c$ parameters refer to the $2 \times 2$ contingency table, see main text.

The PPCs is measured by
the number of species
the number of presences expressed as

|  | raw number | expressed relativized number ${ }^{1}$ | raw number | relativized number ${ }^{2}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PPC | SDR $\mathrm{WB}^{3}$ | SDR, ${ }^{4}$ | SDR pres $^{5}$ | SDRs ${ }^{6}$ |
| Overlap | $a$ | $\frac{a}{a+b+c}$ | $2 a$ | $\frac{2 a}{2 a+b+c}$ |
| Replacement | $2 \mathrm{~min}(b, c)$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+b+c}$ | $2 \min (b, c)$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+b+c}$ |
| Richness difference | $\|b-c\|$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+b+c}$ | $\|b-c\|$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c}$ |
| Overlap and Replacement together (=richness agreement) | $a+2 \min (b, c)$ | $\frac{a+2 \min (b, c)}{a+b+c}$ | $2 a+2 \min (b, c)$ | $\frac{2 a+2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+b+c}$ |
| Replacement and Richness difference together (=beta diversity) | $b+c$ | $\frac{b+c}{a+b+c}$ | $b+c$ | $\frac{b+c}{2 a+b+c}$ |
| Overlap and Richness difference together with the condition that Overlap PPC exists (=broad sense nestedness) | $\begin{gathered} a+\|b-c\| \\ \text { if } a>0, \\ \text { otherwise } 0 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{a+\|b-c\|}{a+b+c} \\ & \text { if a>0, } \\ & \text { otherwise } 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2 a+\|b-c\| \\ & \text { if } a>0, \\ & \text { otherwise } 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \frac{2 a+\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c} \\ \text { if a>0, } \\ \text { otherwise } 0 \end{gathered}$ |
| Overlap with Richness difference together with the condition that both Overlap and Richness difference PPCs exist (=strict sense nestedness) | $\begin{gathered} a+\|b-c\| \\ \text { if } a>0 \text { and }\|b-c\|>0, \\ \text { otherwise } 0 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \quad \frac{a+\|b-c\|}{a+b+c} \\ & \text { if } a>0 \text { and }\|b-c\|>0, \\ & \text { otherwise } 0 \end{aligned}$ | $2 a+\|b-c\|$ if $a>0$ and $\mid b-$ $c \mid>0$, otherwise 0 | $\begin{gathered} \frac{2 a+\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c} \\ \text { if } a>0 \text { and }\|b-c\|>0, \\ \text { otherwise } 0 \end{gathered}$ |

${ }^{1}$ Relativization is made by the total number of species present in both sites
${ }^{2}$ Relativization is made by the total number of presences in both sites
${ }^{3}$ In Podani and Schmera (2011), SDR was written without a subscript. But since Weiher and Boylen (1994) had defined beta diversity of pairs of sites as $b+c$ (see also Koleff et al., 2003), Podani and Schmera (2016) did use the subscript WB when referring to this simplex.
${ }^{4}$ Subscript J refers to Jaccard, see Podani and Schmera (2016)
${ }^{5}$ Subscript pres refers to the number of presences. This is a new suggestion.
${ }^{6}$ Subscript S refers to the Sørensen index. The idea was seeded in Carvalho et al. (2013) and Legendre (2014) but is fully expanded here.

Supplementary Table 2: Overview of existing methods of beta diversity partitioning by examination of pairs of sites based on presence-absence data.

| Family | Framework | Measure | Abbr. | Formula | References |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WeiherBoylen (WB) |  | Weiher-Boylen diversity | $\beta_{\text {wB }}$ | $b+c$ | Weiher and Boylen (1994), Koleff et al. (2003) |
|  | POD | replacement | $\mathrm{Repl}_{\text {wв }}$ | $2 \mathrm{~min}(\mathrm{~b} . \mathrm{c})$ | Podani and Schmera (2011) |
|  |  | richness difference | Rich $_{\text {w }}$ | $\|b-c\|$ | Podani and Schmera (2011) |
|  | SET | intersection of nestedness and (WeiherBoylen) beta diversity | $I_{\text {wB }}$ | $\|b-c\|$ if $a>0$ otherwise 0 | this paper |
|  |  | relative complement of nestedness in (WeiherBoylen) beta diversity | $R C_{\text {w }}$ | $2 \min (b, c)$ if $a>0$ otherwise $b+c$ | this paper |
| Jaccard (J) |  | Jaccard dissimilarity | DJ | $\frac{b+c}{a+b+c}$ | Jaccard (1912) |
|  | BAS | replacement | $\mathrm{Repl}_{8,}$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | Baselga (2012) |
|  |  | nestedness resultant component | $\mathrm{NeS}_{\text {BJ }}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+b+c} \times \frac{a}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | Baselga (2012) |
|  | POD | replacement | Repl, | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+b+c}$ | Cardoso et al. (2009), Podani and Schmera (2011) |
|  |  | richness difference | Rich, | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+b+c}$ | Podani and Schmera (2011) |
|  | SET | intersection of nestedness and (Jaccard) beta diversity | IJ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+b+c} \text { if } a>0 \text { otherwise } 0$ | this paper |
|  |  | relative <br> complement of nestedness in (Jaccard) beta diversity | $R C_{J}$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+b+c} \text { if } a>0 \text { otherwise } \frac{b+c}{a+b+c}$ | this paper |
| Sørensen(S) |  | Sørensen dissimilarity | $\mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{s}}$ | $\frac{b+c}{2 a+b+c}$ | Sørensen (1948) |
|  | BAS | replacement (turnover) = Simpson dissimilarity | $\operatorname{Repl}_{\text {BS }}$ | $\frac{\min (b, c)}{a+\min (b, c)}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Simpson (1943), } \\ & \text { Baselga } 2010 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  | nestedness resulted component | $\mathrm{Nes}_{\text {BS }}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c} \times \frac{a}{a+\min (b, c)}$ | Baselga (2010) |
|  | POD | replacement | Repls | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+b+c}$ | Legendre (2014), Baselga and Leprieur (2015) |
|  |  | richness <br> difference | Richs $^{\text {S }}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c}$ | Legendre (2014), Baselga and Leprieur (2015) |
|  | SET | intersection of nestedness and (Sørensen) beta diversity | $I_{s}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c}$ if $a>0$ otherwise 0 | this paper |
|  |  | relative complement of nestedness in (Sørensen) beta diversity | $R C_{s}$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+b+c} \text { if } a>0 \text { otherwise } \frac{b+c}{2 a+b+c}$ | this paper |

Supplementary Table 3: Overview of the performance of the different replacement components of beta diversity in detecting Replacement PPC in different community patterns. We examined the replacement components of the Weiher-Boylen (WB), Jaccard (Jac) and Sørensen (Sør) families in the POD and BAS frameworks (see Suppl. Table 2, for more details). We examined overlap, replacement, perfect richness agreement, perfect nested anti-nested and perfect complex patterns (see Table 1 as well in the main document for further explanation). PRO 1 to PRO 5 are properties of beta diversity components (see main document). To support comparison of beta diversity and replacement components, their algebraic forms are given in the "beta diversity" and "replacement" columns. Cells below PRO 1 to PRO 5 indicate whether the replacement component possesses (Yes) or not (No) the particular property (column) regarding the given community pattern (row).

| Family | Framework | Community pattern | Beta diversity | Replacement | PRO 1 | PRO 2 | PRO 3 | PRO 4 | PRO 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WB | POD | overlap | 0 | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | replacement | $2 \min (\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | $2 \min (\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $2 \min (\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | $2 \mathrm{~min}(\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\mid \mathrm{b}-\mathrm{c}$ \| | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | anti-nested | $b+c$ | $2 \min (\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect complex | $b+c$ | $2 \min (\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Jac | BAS | overlap | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | replacement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+\|b-c\|}$ | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | Yes | No | No | No | No |
|  |  | perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{a+b+c}$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  | POD | overlap | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |



| perfect nested | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+\|b-c\|}$ | $\frac{0}{2 a+\|b-c\|}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No Yes |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{2 a+b+c}$ | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No Yes | Yes |

Supplementary Table 4: Overview of the performance of the different nestedness-related components of beta diversity in detecting the nestedness-related PPC of beta diversity (i.e. Richness difference PPC with some conditions applied) in different community patterns. We examined the replacement components of the Weiher-Boylen (WB), Jaccard (Jac) and Sørensen (Sør) families in the SET and BAS frameworks (see Suppl. Table 2, for more details). We examined overlap, replacement, perfect richness agreement, perfect nested anti-nested and perfect complex patterns (see Table 1 as well in the main document for further explanation). PRO 1 to PRO 5 are properties of beta diversity components (see main document). To support comparison of beta diversity and nestedness-related components, their algebraic forms are given in the "beta diversity" and "nestedness-related" columns. Cells below PRO 1 to PRO 5 indicate whether the nestedness-related component possesses (Yes) or not (No) the particular property (column) regarding the given community pattern (row).

| Family | Framework | Community pattern | Beta diversity | Nestedness-related component | PRO 1 | PRO 2 | PRO 3 | PRO 4 | PRO 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WB | SET | overlap | 0 | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | replacement | $2 \mathrm{~min}(\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $2 \mathrm{~min}(\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\|b-c\|$ | $\|\mathrm{b}-\mathrm{c}\|$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | anti-nested | $b+c$ | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect complex | $b+c$ | $\|\mathrm{b}-\mathrm{c}\|$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Jac | BAS | overlap | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{a} \times \frac{a}{a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
|  |  | replacement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | $\frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)} \times \frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | $\frac{0}{a+2 \min (b, c)} \times \frac{a}{a+2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+\|b-c\|}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+\|b-c\|} \times \frac{a}{a}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{b+c} \times \frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{a+b+c}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+b+c} \times \frac{a}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |


|  | SET | overlap | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | replacement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | $\frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | $\frac{0}{a+2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+\|b-c\|}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+\|b-c\|}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
|  |  | anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{0}{b+c}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
|  |  | perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{a+b+c}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Sør | BAS | overlap | $\frac{0}{2 a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{2 a} \times \frac{a}{a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
|  |  | replacement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | $\frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)} \times \frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | $\frac{0}{2 a+2 \min (b, c)} \times \frac{a}{a+2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+\|b-c\|}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+\|b-c\|} \times \frac{a}{a}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
|  |  | anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{b+c} \times \frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  |  | perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{2 a+b+c}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c} \times \frac{a}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
|  | SET | overlap | $\frac{0}{2 a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{2 a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
|  |  | replacement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | $\frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |


| perfect richness agreement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | $\frac{0}{2 a+2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| perfect nested | $\|b-c\|$ | $\|b-c\|$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
|  | $2 a+\|b-c\|$ | $2 a+\|b-c\|$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{0}{b+c}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{2 a+b+c}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |

Supplementary Table 5: Overview of the performance of the different forms of beta diversity and richness difference components in detecting Richness difference $P P C$ in different community patterns. We examined the richness difference components of the Weiher-Boylen (WB), Jaccard (Jac) and Sørensen (Sør) families in in the POD framework (see Suppl. Table 2, for more details). We examined overlap, replacement, perfect richness agreement, perfect nested anti-nested and perfect complex patterns (see Table 1 as well in the main document for further explanation). PRO 1 to PRO 5 are properties of beta diversity components (see main document). To support comparison of beta diversity and richness difference components, their algebraic forms are given in the "beta diversity" and "richness difference" columns. Cells below PRO 1 to PRO 5 indicate whether the richness difference component possesses (Yes) or not (No) the particular property (column) regarding the given community pattern (row).

| Family | Framework | Community pattern | Beta diversity | Richness difference | PRO 1 | PRO 2 | PRO 3 | PRO 4 | PRO 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WB | POD | overlap | 0 | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | replacement | $2 \min (\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c})$ | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $2 \mathrm{~min}(\mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{c}$ ) | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\mid \mathrm{b}-\mathrm{c}$ \| | $\mid \mathrm{b}-\mathrm{c}$ \| | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | anti-nested | $b+c$ | $\|\mathrm{b}-\mathrm{c}\|$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
|  |  | perfect complex | b+c | $\|\mathrm{b}-\mathrm{c}\|$ | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Jac | POD | overlap | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
|  |  | replacement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | $\frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
|  |  | perfect richness agreement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | $\frac{0}{a+2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
|  |  | perfect nested | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+\|b-c\|}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+\|b-c\|}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
|  |  | anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
|  |  | perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{a+b+c}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{a+b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Sør | POD | overlap | $\frac{0}{2 a}=0$ | $\frac{0}{2 a}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |


| replacement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 \min (b, c)}=1$ | $\frac{0}{2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| perfect richness agreement | $\frac{2 \min (b, c)}{2 a+2 \min (b, c)}$ | $\frac{0}{2 a+2 \min (b, c)}=0$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| perfect nested | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+\|b-c\|}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+\|b-c\|}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| anti-nested | $\frac{b+c}{b+c}=1$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| perfect complex | $\frac{b+c}{2 a+b+c}$ | $\frac{\|b-c\|}{2 a+b+c}$ | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |

## Supplementary Appendix 1: R scripts for the computation of the intersection (I) of nestedness and beta diversity and the relative complement $(R C)$ of nestedness in beta diversity.

```
#Partitioning of Weiher-Boylen beta diversity using SET partitioning
#Input:
#presence-absence matrix, where rows are sites, columns are species
#Output:
#first distance matrix: Weiher-Boylen beta diversity
#second distance matrix: Intersection of nestedness and beta diversity
#third distance matrix: Relative complement of nestedness in beta diversity
setpart.wb<-function(mat)
{
mat <- as.matrix(mat)
n <- nrow (mat)
mat.b <- ifelse(mat>0, 1, 0)
a <- mat.b %*% t(mat.b)
b <- mat.b %*% (1 - t(mat.b))
c <- (1 - mat.b) %*% t(mat.b)
min.bc <- pmin(b,c)
BD.wb<- (b+c)
I.wb<-matrix(0,n,n)
RC.wb<-matrix(0,n,n)
for (i in 2:n){
    for (j in 1:(i-1)){
    aa=a[i,j];bb=b[i,j];cc=c[i,j]
    if (aa==0) I.wb[i,j]<-0 else I.wb[i,j]<-abs(bb-cc)
    if (aa==0) RC.wb[i,j]<-(bb+cc) else RC.wb[i,j]<-2*min(bb,cc)
} }
res<-list(as.dist(BD.wb),as.dist(I.wb),as.dist(RC.wb))
res
}
#Partitioning of Jaccard dissimilarity using SET partitioning
#Input:
#presence-absence matrix, where rows are sites, columns are species
#Output:
#first distance matrix: Jaccard dissimilarity (beta diversity)
#second distance matrix: Intersection of nestedness and beta diversity
#third distance matrix: Relative complement of nestedness in beta diversity
setpart.j<-function(mat)
{
mat <- as.matrix(mat)
n <- nrow (mat)
mat.b <- ifelse(mat>0, 1, 0)
a <- mat.b %*% t(mat.b)
b <- mat.b %*% (1 - t(mat.b))
c <- (1 - mat.b) %*% t(mat.b)
min.bc <- pmin(b,c)
BD.j<- (b+c)/ (a+b+c)
I.j<-matrix(0,n,n)
RC.j<-matrix(0,n,n)
for (i in 2:n){
    for (j in 1:(i-1)){
    aa=a[i,j];bb=b[i,j];cc=c[i,j]
    if (aa==0) I.j[i,j]<-0 else I.j[i,j]<-abs(bb-cc)/(aa+bb+cc)
```

```
    if (aa==0) RC.j[i,j]<-(bb+cc)/(aa+bb+cc) else RC.j[i,j]<-
2*min (bb,cc)/ (aa+bb+cc)
} }
res<-list(as.dist(BD.j),as.dist(I.j),as.dist(RC.j))
res
}
#Partitioning of Sørensen dissimilarity using SET partitioning
#Input:
#presence-absence matrix, where rows are sites, columns are species
#Output:
#first distance matrix: Sørensen dissimilarity (beta diversity)
#second distance matrix: Intersection of nestedness and beta diversity
#third distance matrix: Relative complement of nestedness in beta diversity
setpart.s<-function(mat)
{
mat <- as.matrix(mat)
n <- nrow (mat)
mat.b <- ifelse(mat>0, 1, 0)
a <- mat.b %*% t(mat.b)
b <- mat.b %*% (1 - t(mat.b))
c <- (1 - mat.b) %*% t(mat.b)
min.bc <- pmin(b,c)
BD.s<- (b+c)/ (2*a+b+c)
I.s<-matrix(0,n,n)
RC.s<-matrix(0,n,n)
for (i in 2:n){
    for (j in 1:(i-1)){
    aa=a[i,j];bb=b[i,j];cc=c[i,j]
    if (aa==0) I.s[i,j]<-0 else I.s[i,j]<-abs(bb-cc)/(2*aa+bb+cc)
    if (aa==0) RC.s[i,j]<-(bb+cc)/(2*aa+bb+cc) else RC.s[i,j]<-
2*min (b.b,cc) / (2*aa+bb b+cc)
} }
res<-list(as.dist(BD.s),as.dist(I.s),as.dist(RC.s))
res
}
```

