

A sea snake with a black and white diamond-patterned body is swimming horizontally across the frame. Below it is a dense field of yellow and orange coral. The background is a deep blue ocean with some small, distant fish.

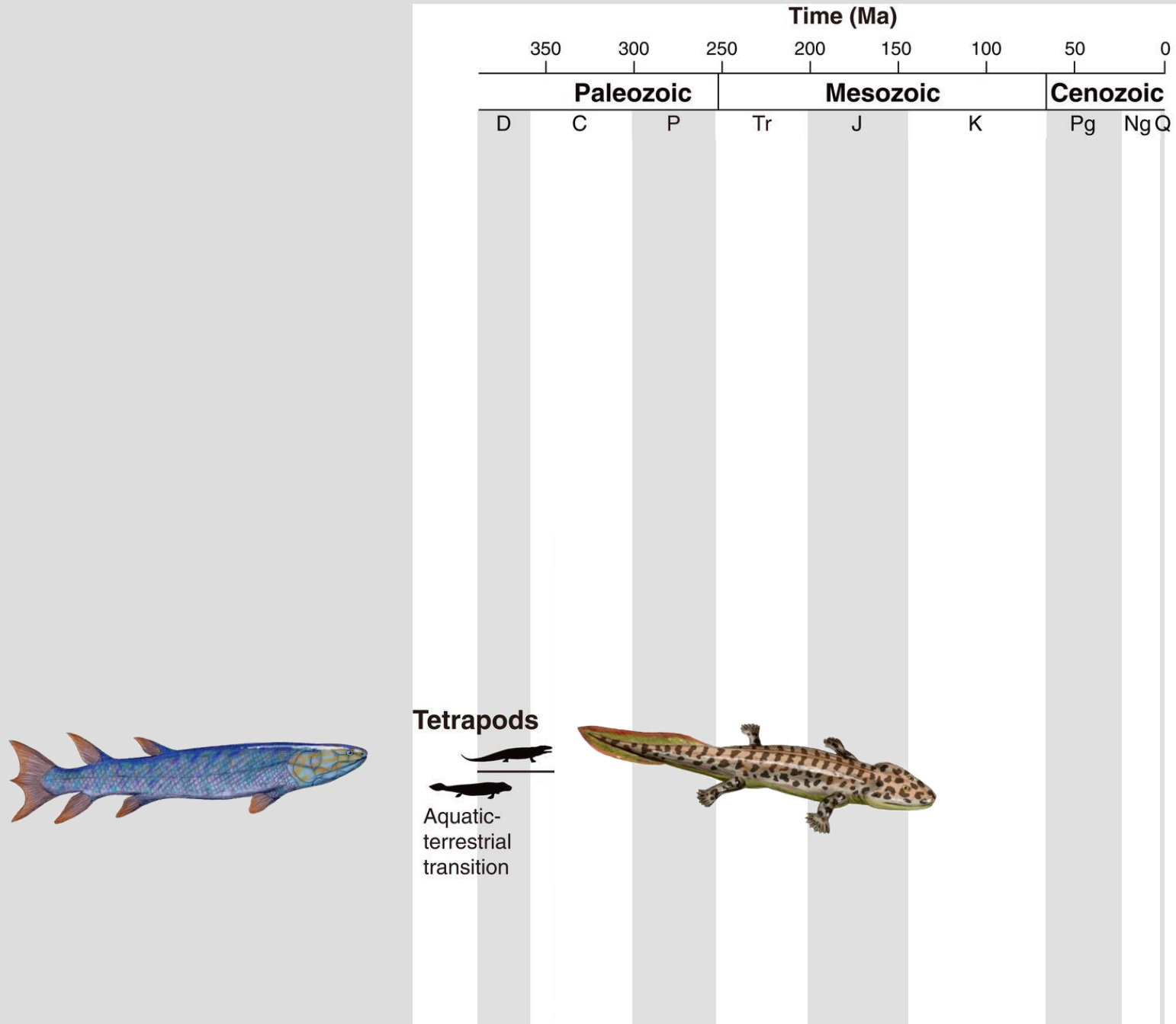
PATHWAYS TO THE MARINE REALM IN SERPENTES

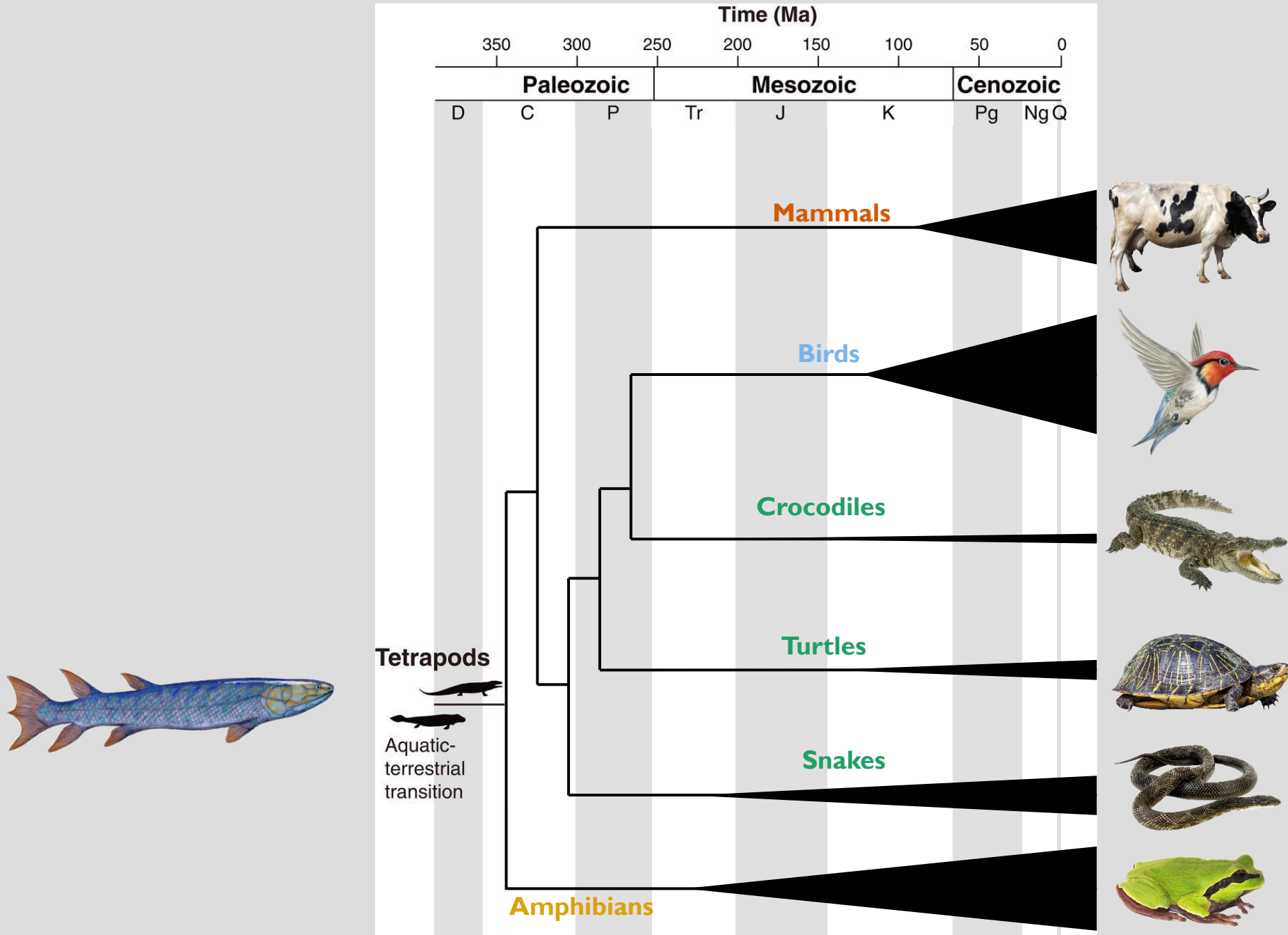


William Gearty

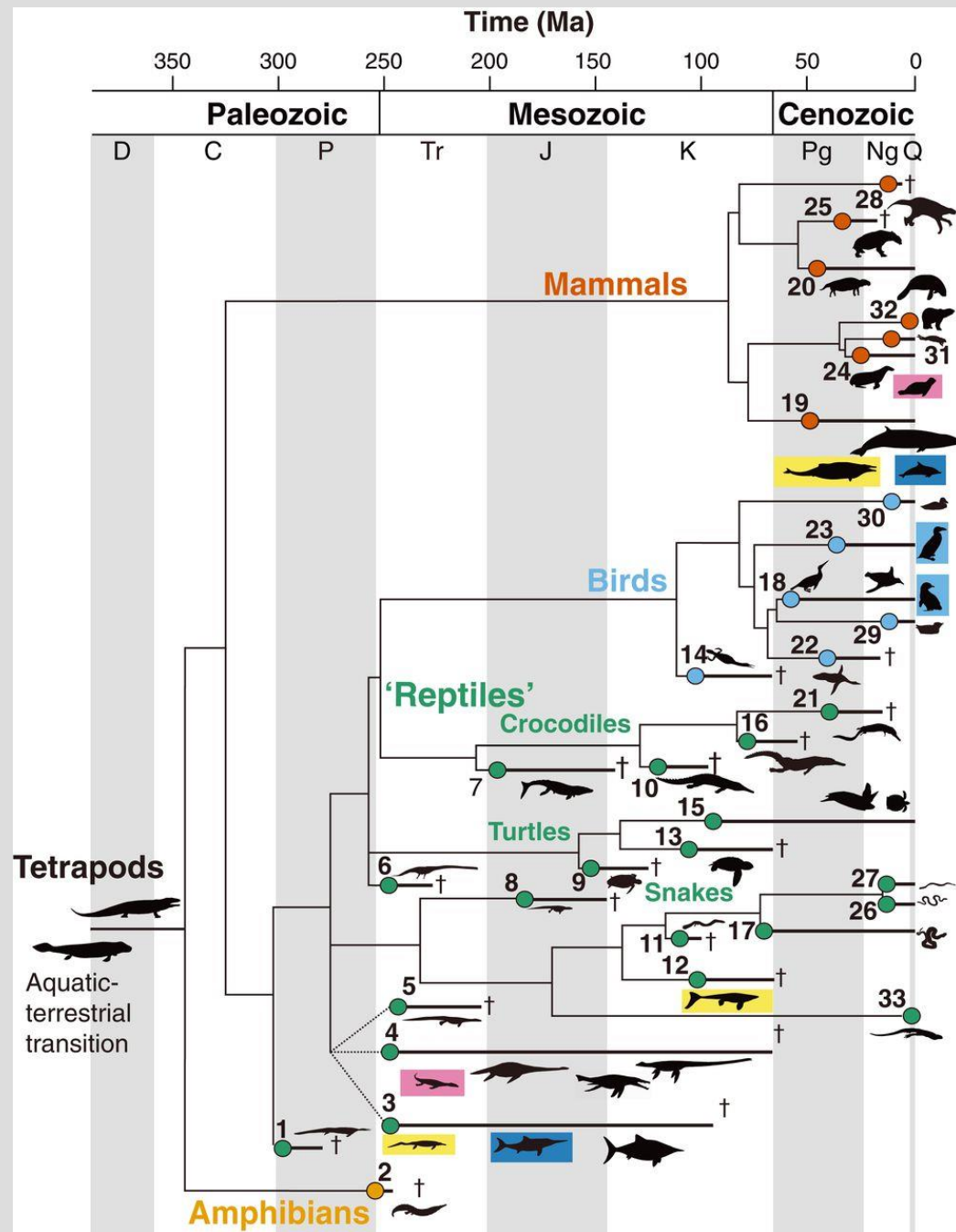
 @willgearty

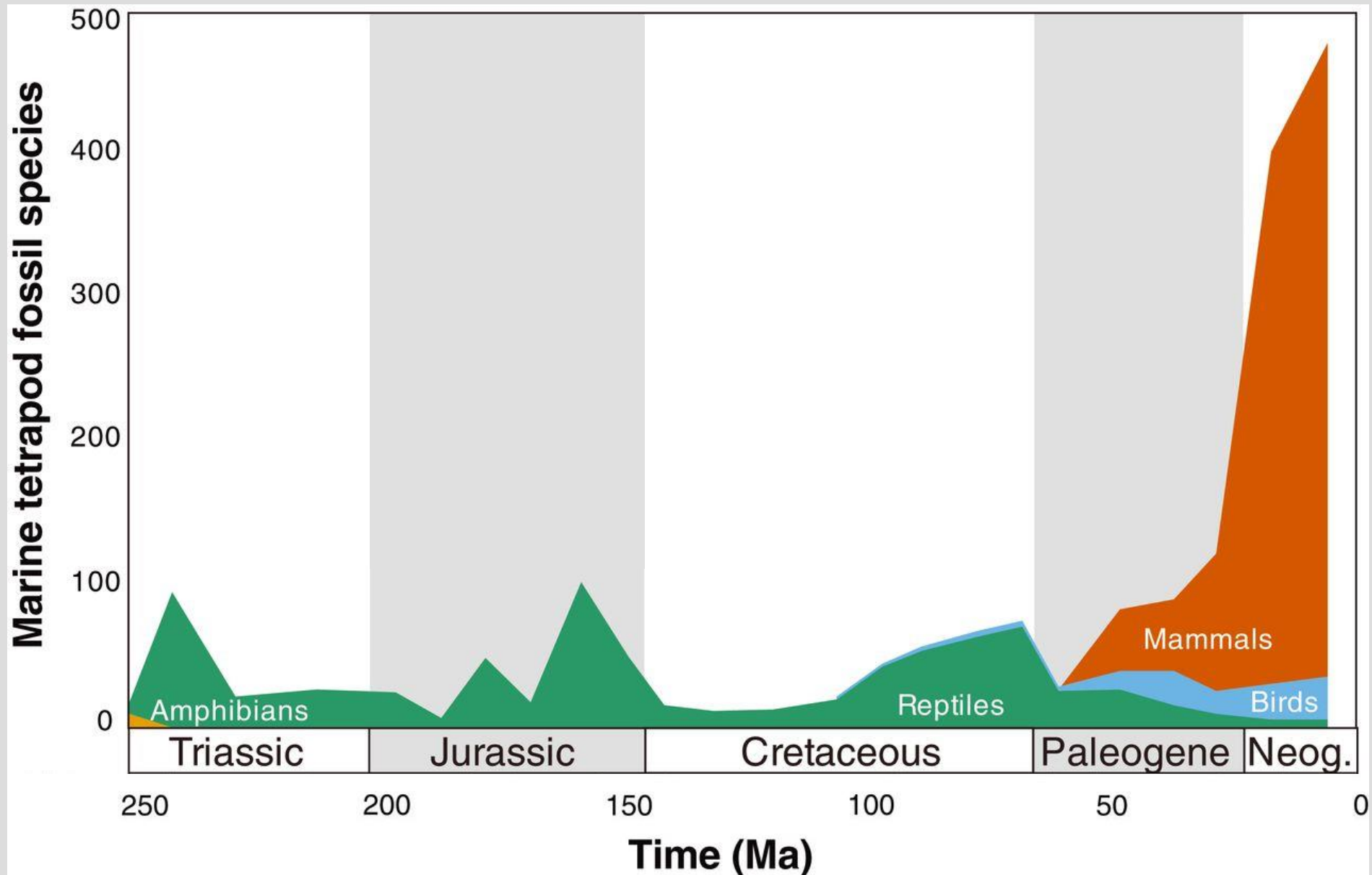
Stanford
SCHOOL OF EARTH, ENERGY
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Geological Sciences

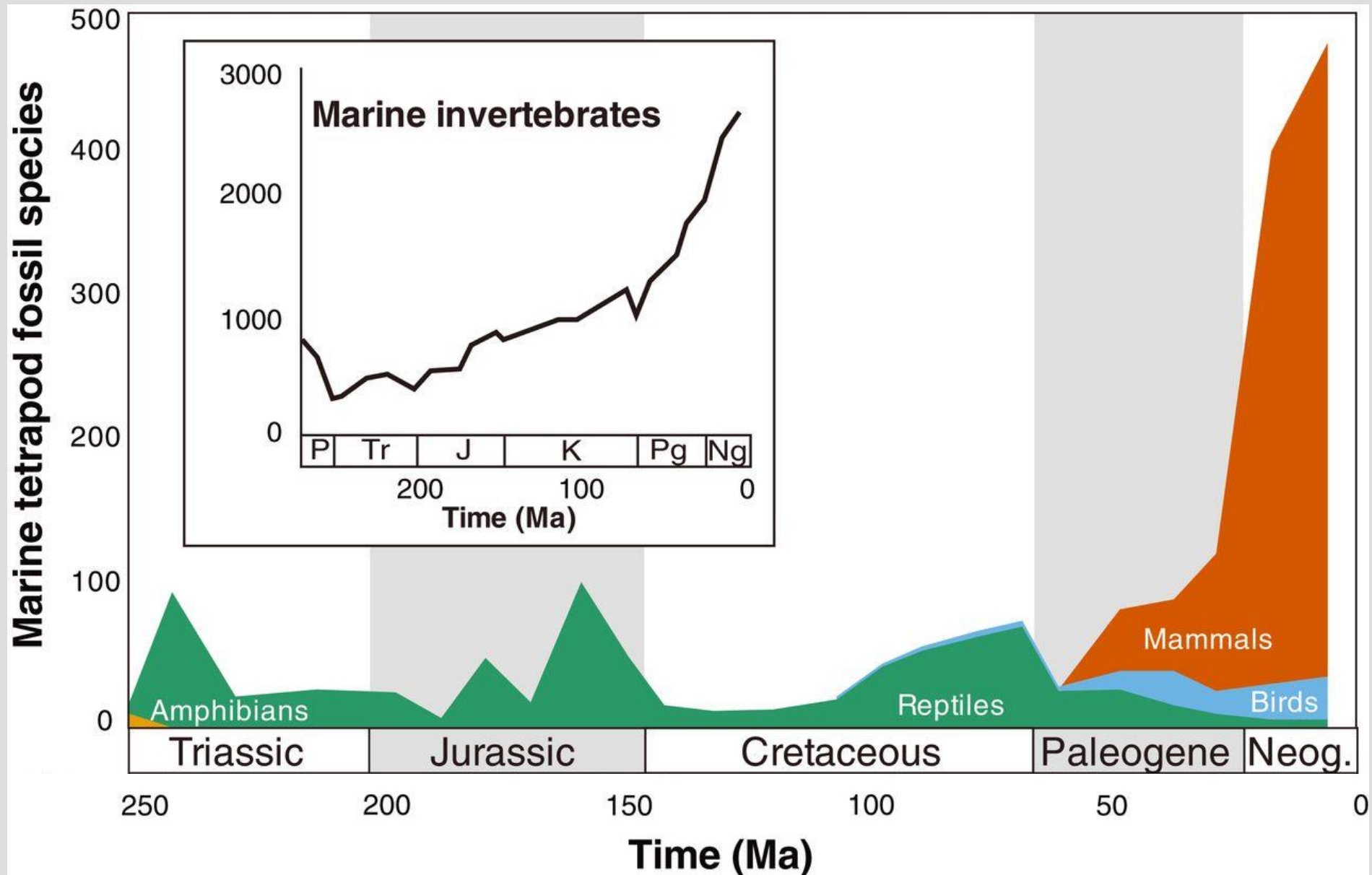


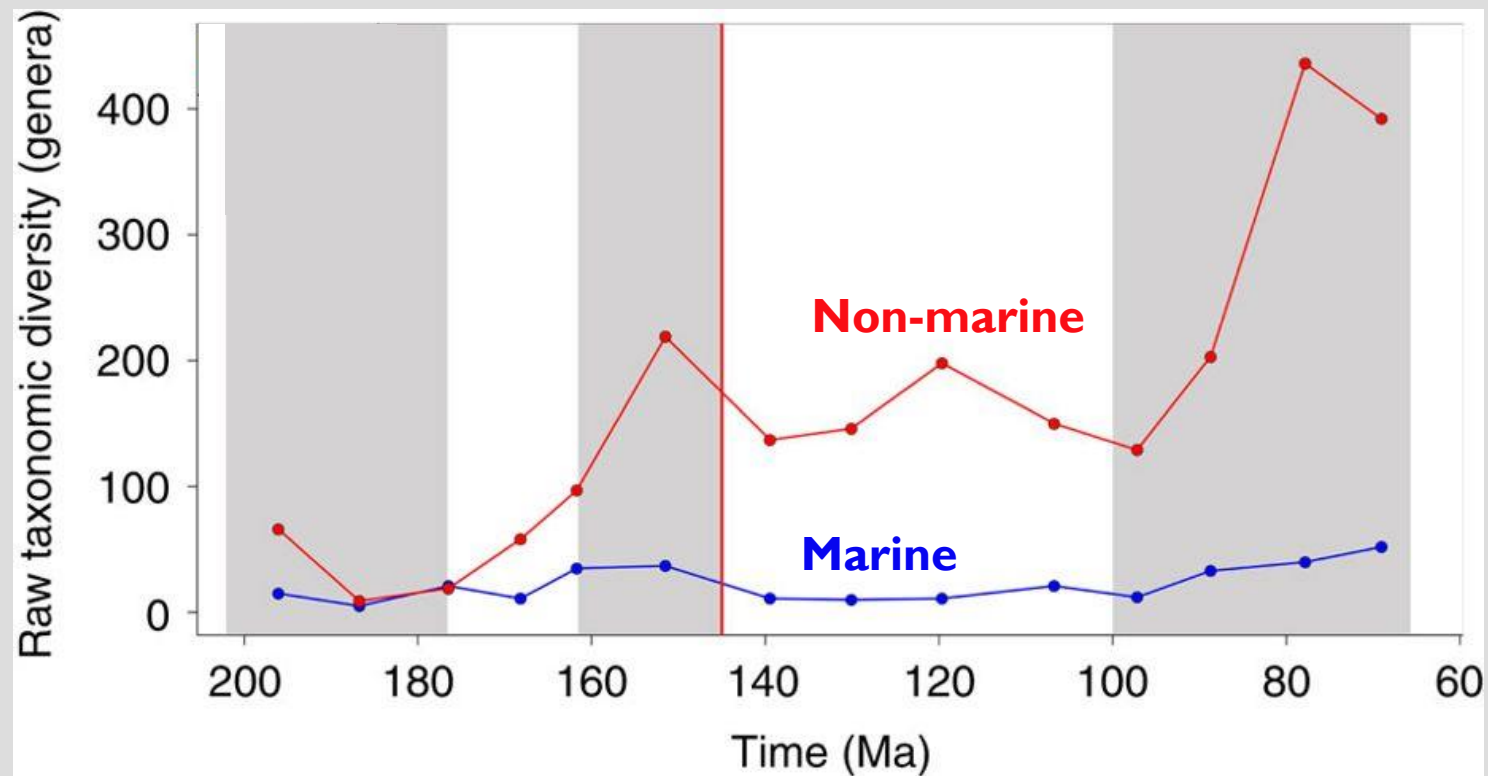


Modified from Kelley and Pyenson 2015, *Science*

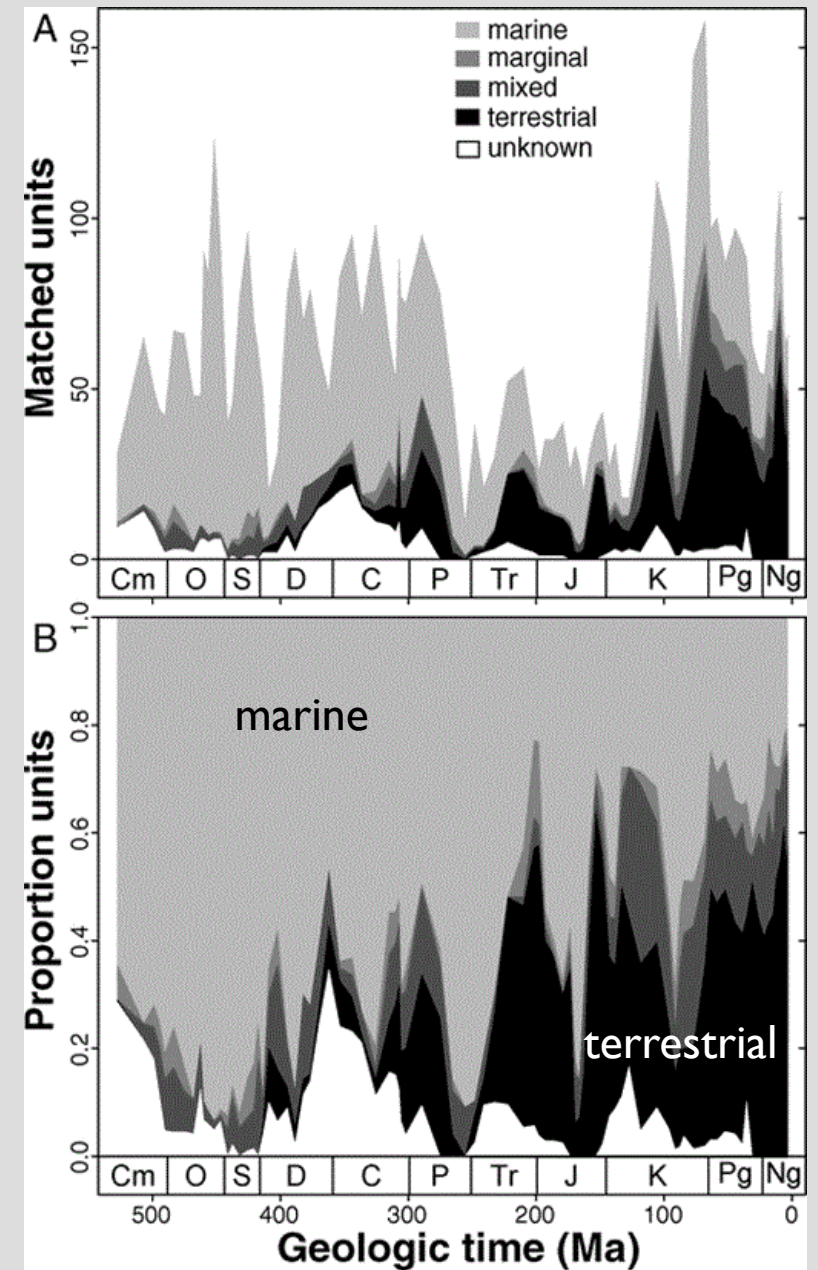








Modified from Tennant et al 2016, *Nature Communications*



Peters and Heim 2010, *Paleobiology*



- Lots of oxygen
- Very low salinity
- No buoyancy
- Low heat loss
- Low viscosity

- Less oxygen
- Very high salinity
- High buoyancy
- High heat loss
- High viscosity



PERMANENT LIFE IN THE OCEAN IS HARD*
*WHEN YOU'VE ADAPTED TO LIVING ON LAND

FOOD
ACQUISITION

SALT BALANCE

THERMOREGULATION

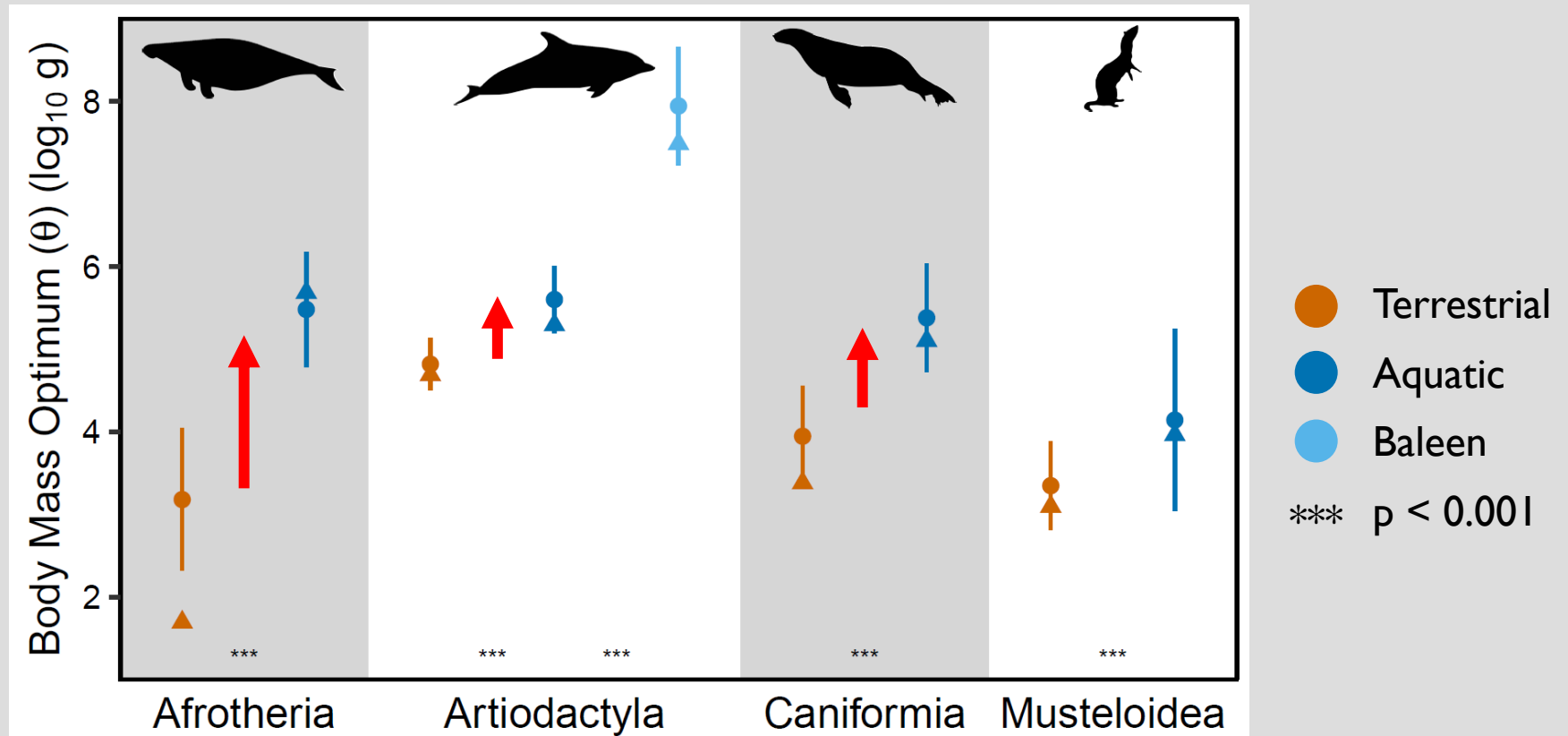
PERMANENT LIFE IN THE OCEAN IS HARD*
*WHEN YOU'VE ADAPTED TO LIVING ON LAND

DEHYDRATION

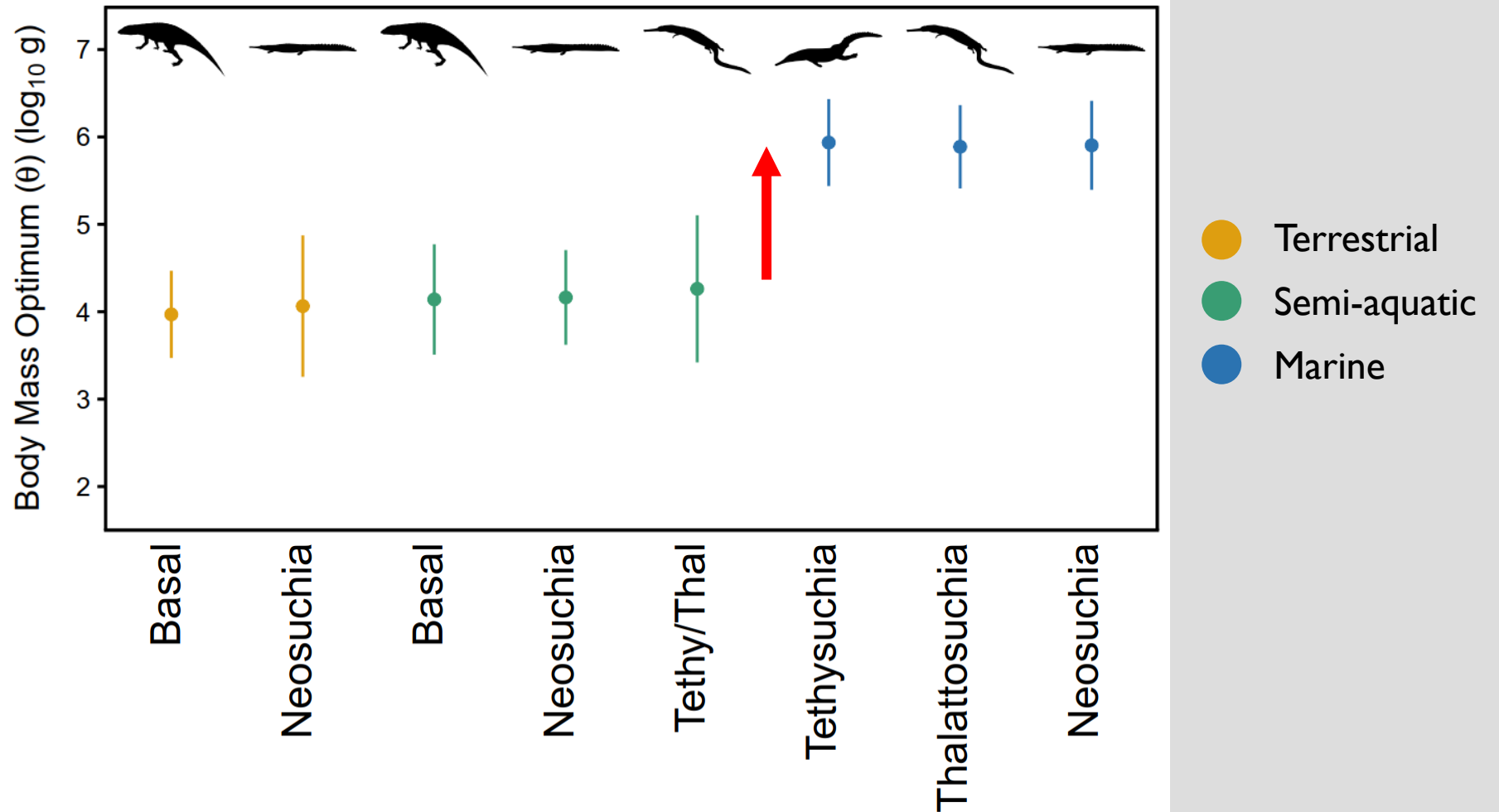
LOCOMOTION

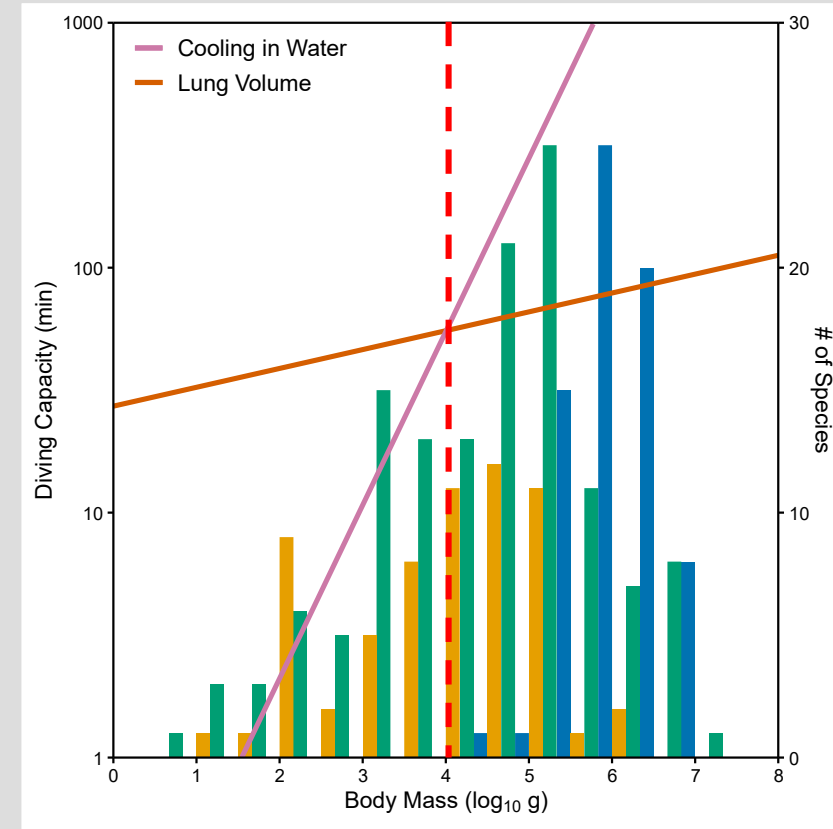
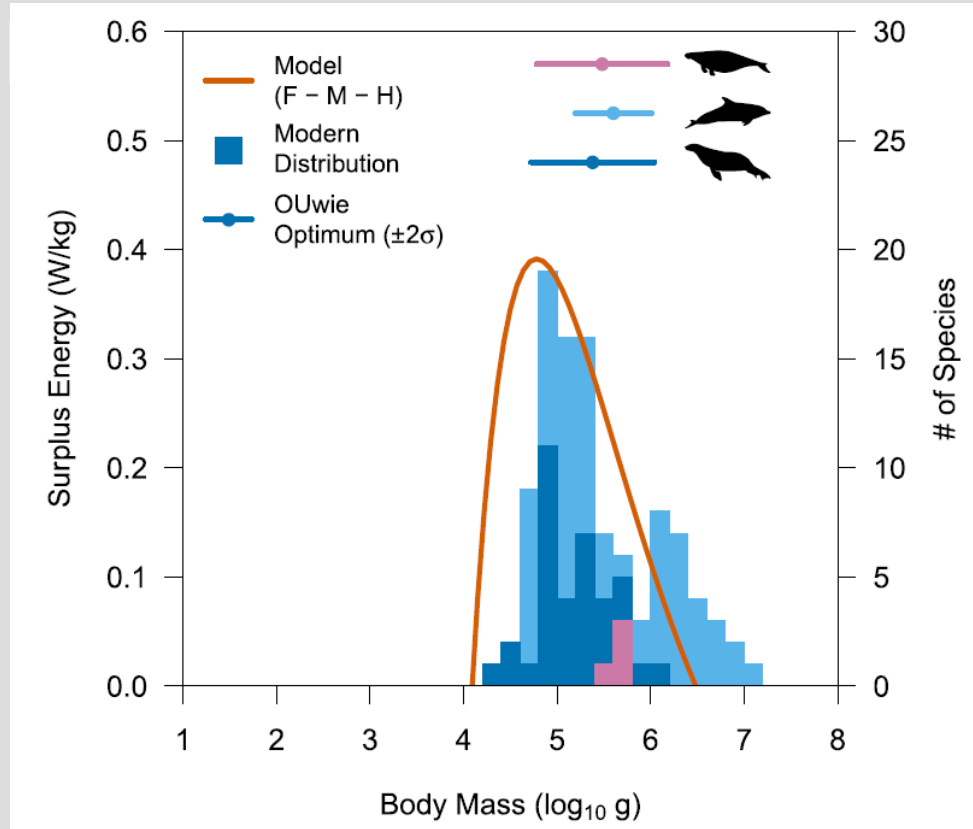
REPRODUCTION

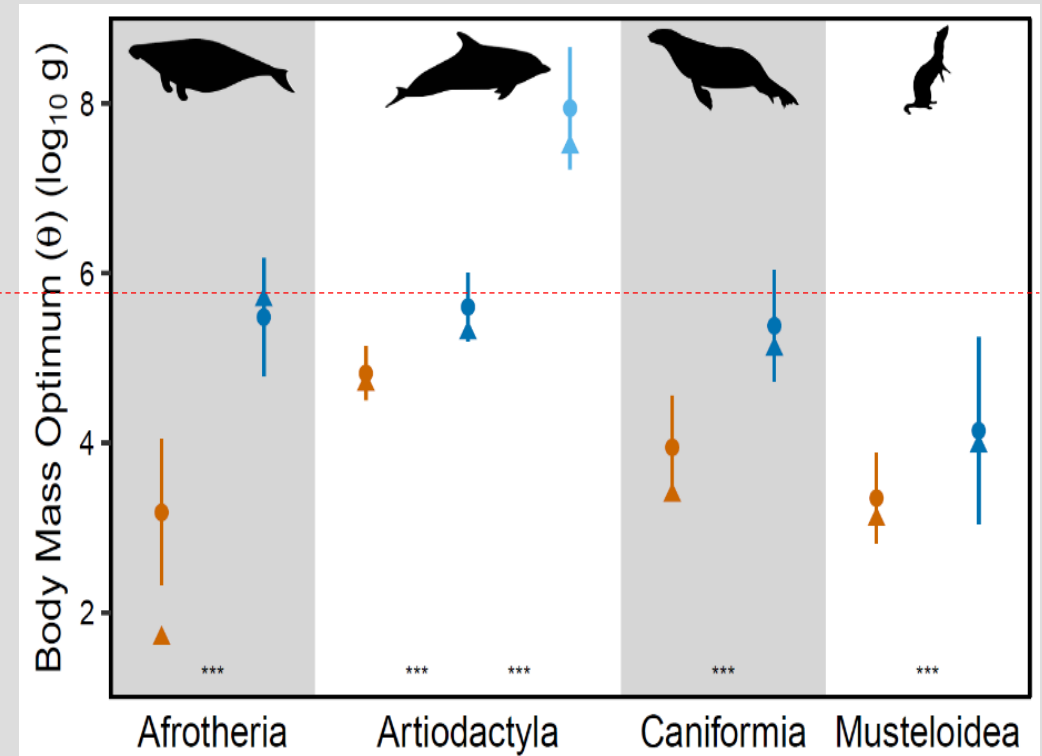
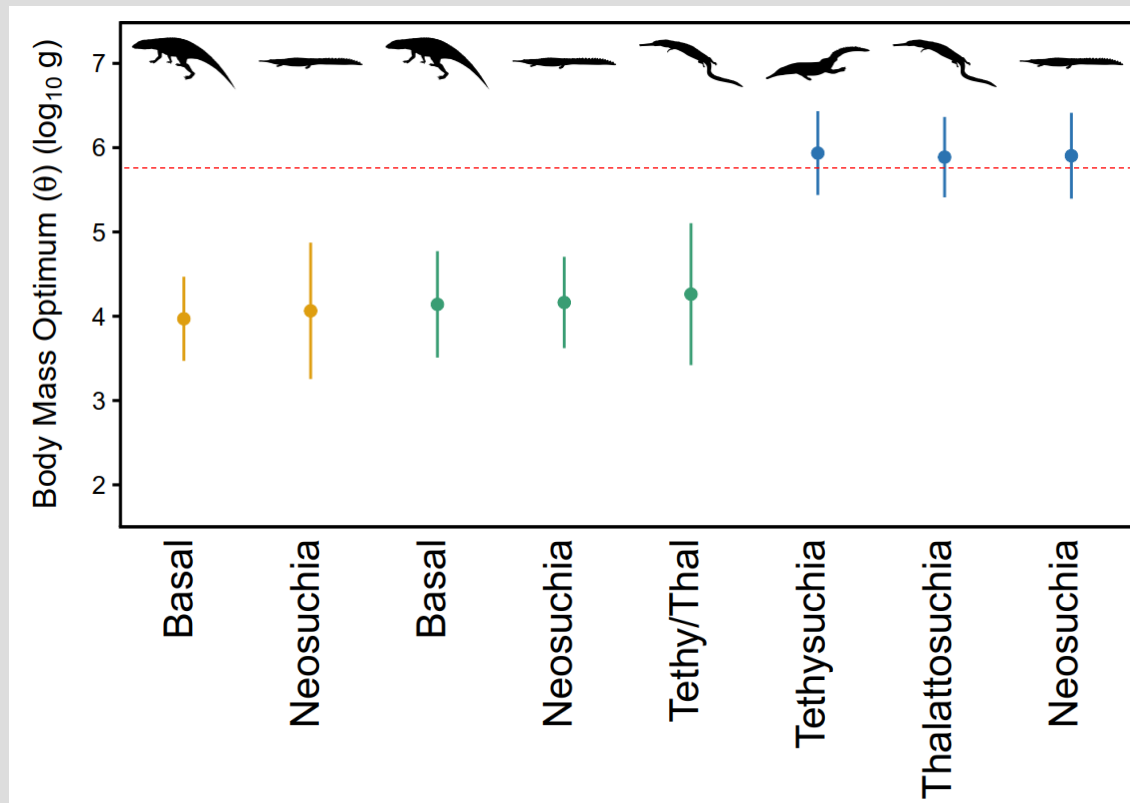
MAMMALS GET MUCH BIGGER



CROCS GET MUCH BIGGER TOO







SNAKES



PREVIOUS WORK

Fully-sampled phylogenies of squamates reveal evolutionary patterns in threat status 

João Filipe Riva Tonini ^{a,*}, Karen H. Beard ^b, Rodrigo Barbosa Ferreira ^{b,c}, Walter Jetz ^d, R. Alexander Pyron ^a

^a Department of Biological Sciences, The George Washington University, 2029 G St NW, Washington, DC 20052, USA
^b Department of Wildland Resources and the Ecology Center, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5230, USA
^c Laboratório de Ecologia de Populações e Conservação, Universidade Vila Velha, Rua Comissário José Danças de Melo 21, Boa Vista, Vila Velha, ES 29102-920, Brazil
^d Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University, 165 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06520, USA

Global Ecology and Biogeography, (*Global Ecol. Biogeogr.*) (2016) **25**, 187–197



RESEARCH
PAPER

Body sizes and diversification rates of lizards, snakes, amphisbaenians and the tuatara

Anat Feldman¹, Niv Sabath², R. Alexander Pyron³, Itay Mayrose² and Shai Meiri^{1*}

ECOLOGY LETTERS

Ecology Letters, (2014) **17**: 13–21

doi: 10.1111/ele.12168

LETTER

Early origin of viviparity and multiple reversions to oviparity in squamate reptiles

R. Alexander Pyron^{1*} and Frank T. Burbrink^{2,3}

Abstract

Viviparity has putatively evolved 115 times in squamates (lizards and snakes), out of only ~ 140 origins in vertebrates, and is apparently related to colder climates and other factors such as body size. Viviparity apparently evolves from oviparity via egg-retention, and such taxa may thus still

Global Ecology and Biogeography, (*Global Ecol. Biogeogr.*) (2015) **24**, 1433–1442



RESEARCH
PAPER

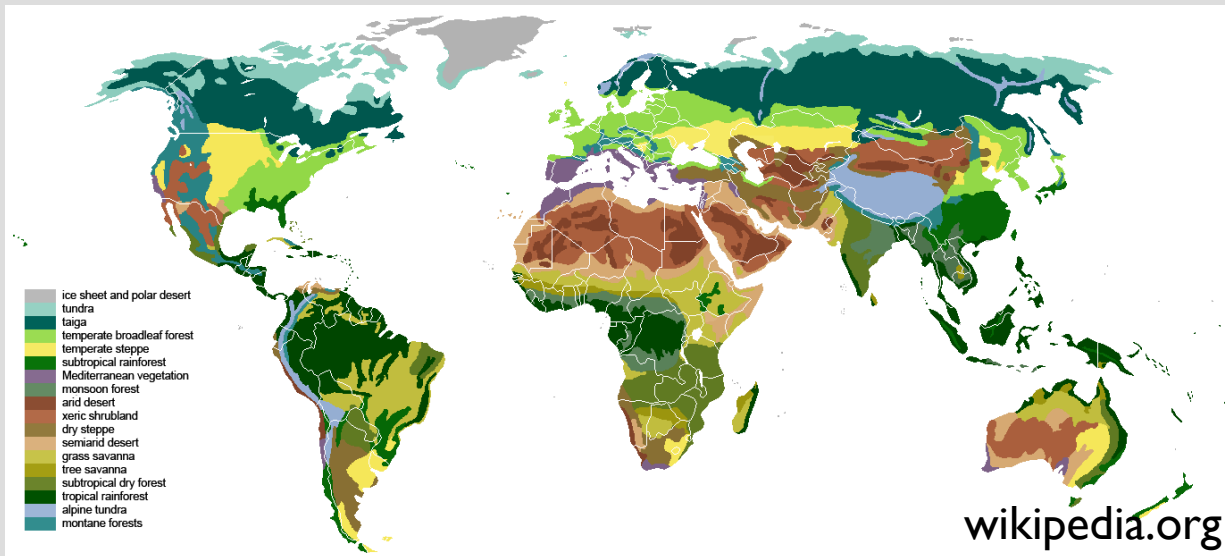
The geography of snake reproductive mode: a global analysis of the evolution of snake viviparity

Anat Feldman^{1*}, Aaron M. Bauer², Fernando Castro-Herrera³, Laurent Chirio⁴, Indraneil Das⁵, Tiffany M. Doan⁶, Erez Maza¹, Danny Meirte⁷, Cristiano de Campos Nogueira⁸, Zoltán Tamás Nagy⁹, Omar Torres-Carvajal¹⁰, Peter Uetz¹¹ and Shai Meiri¹

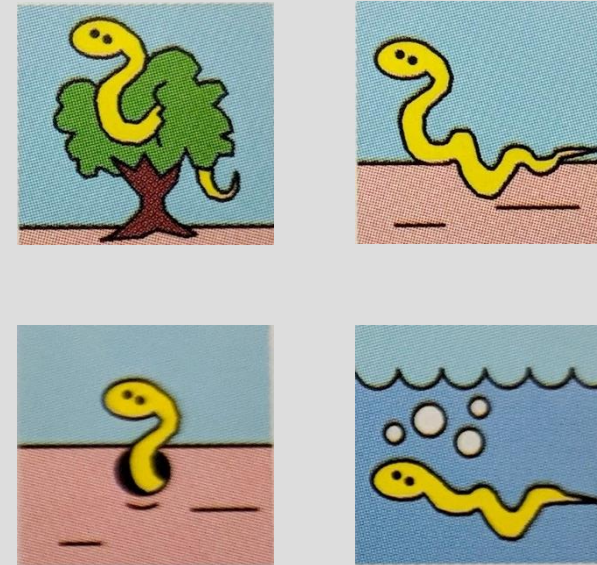
- Phylogeny → Timescaled with `ape::chronos()` with fossil calibrations
- Body mass (g)
- Reproductive mode (eggs vs. live birth)
- Reproductive mode (eggs vs. live birth)
- Average temperature
- Average elevation

HABITAT DATA COLLECTION

BIOME



TIERING



Marques, Eterovic, and Sazima 2012

HABITAT DATA COLLECTION

BIOME

- Marine
- Brackish
- Freshwater
- Semi-aquatic
- Forest
- Grassland
- Desert
- Tundra/montane

TIERING

- Arboreal
- Scansorial (“semi-arboreal” or “climber”)
- Surficial (“terrestrial”)
- Semi-fossorial (occasional diggers)
- Fossorial (“digger”)
- Aquatic

HABITAT DATA COLLECTION

BIOME

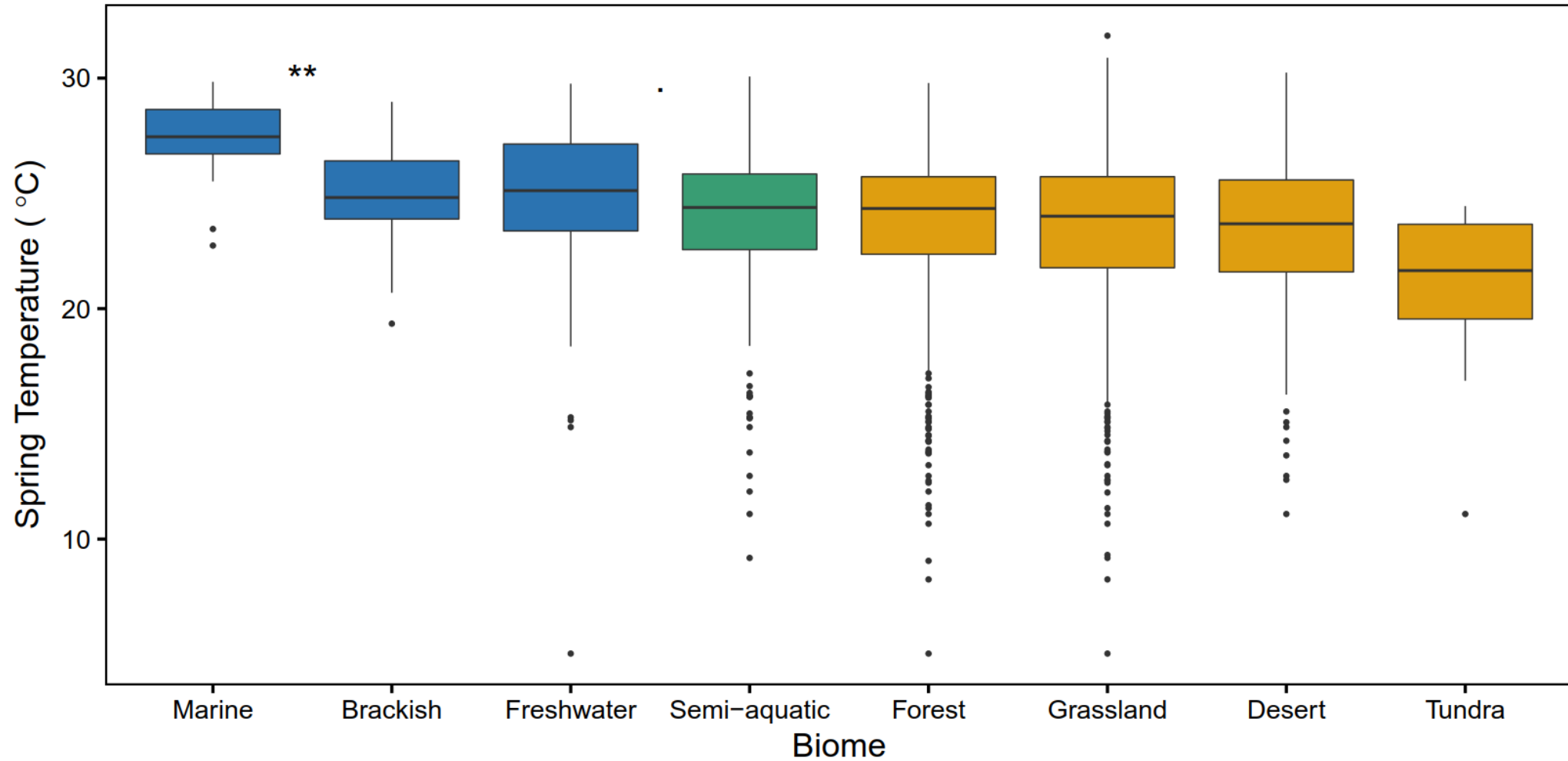
- Marine
- Brackish
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TIERING

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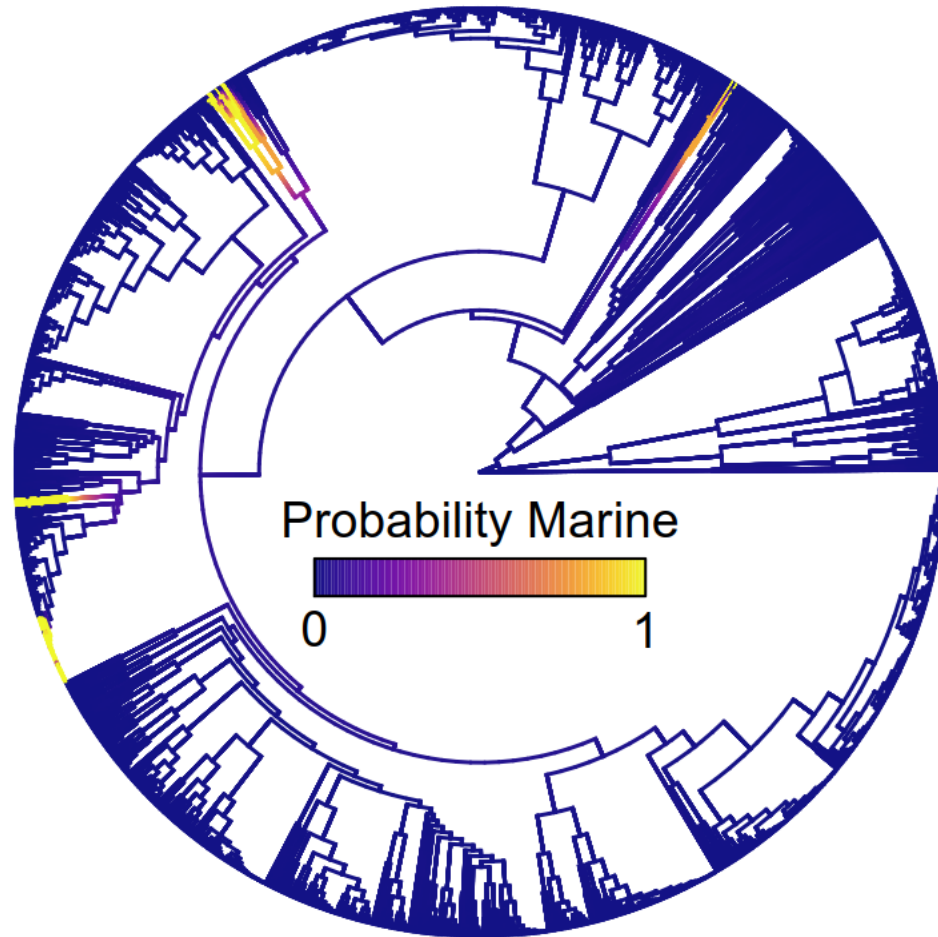
WAIT, HOW?

TEMPERATURE BY BIOME

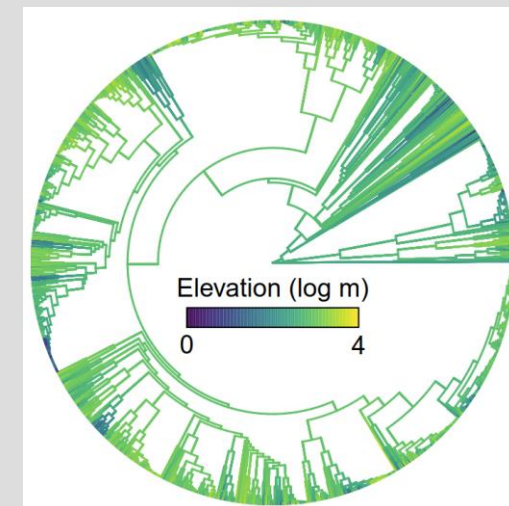
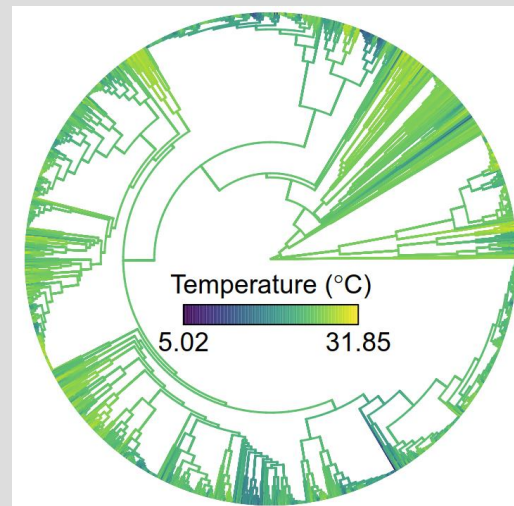
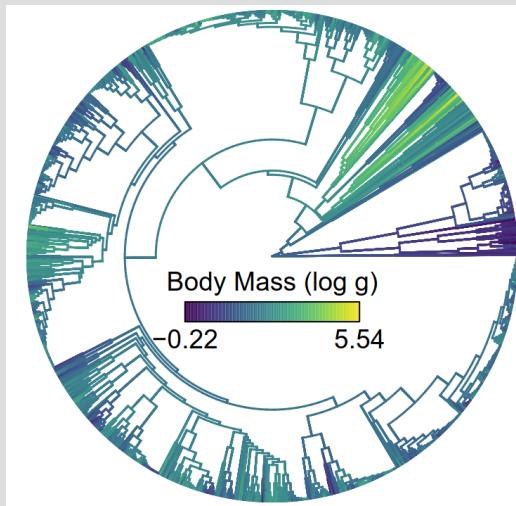
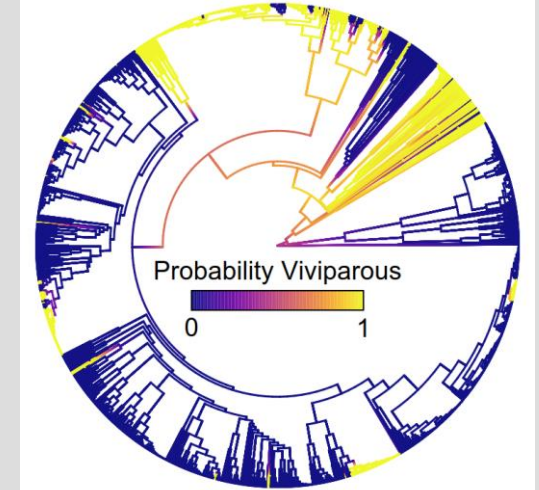
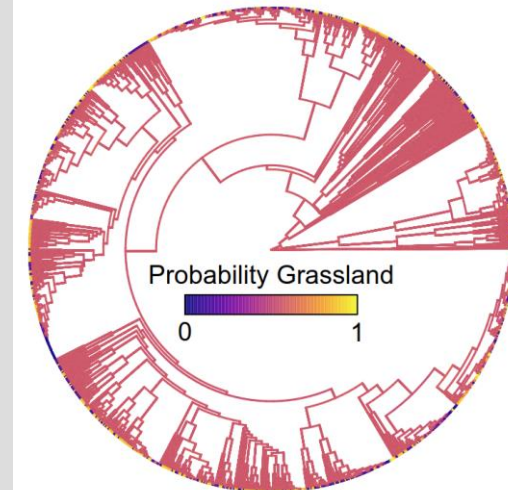
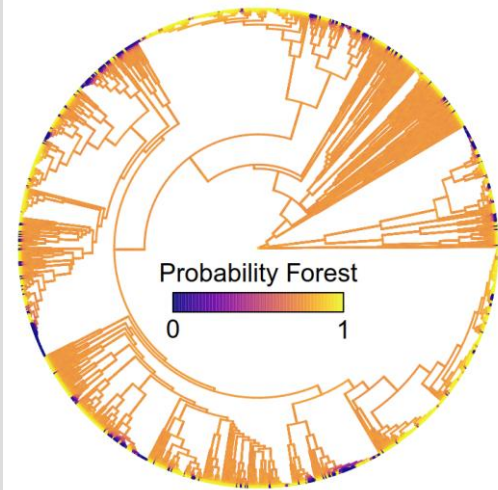
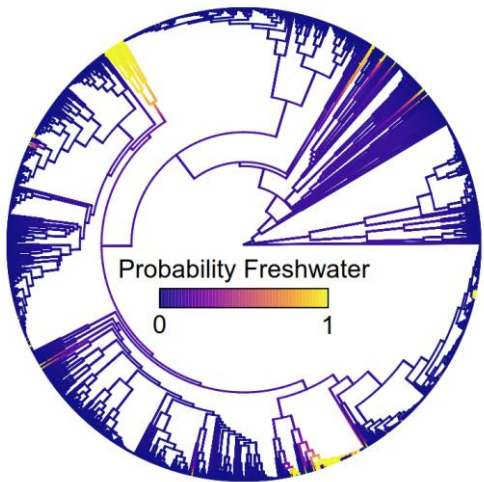


WHICH ADAPTATIONS/CONDITIONS
PRECEDED THE MARINE INVASIONS?
(PERHAPS ENABLING THEM)

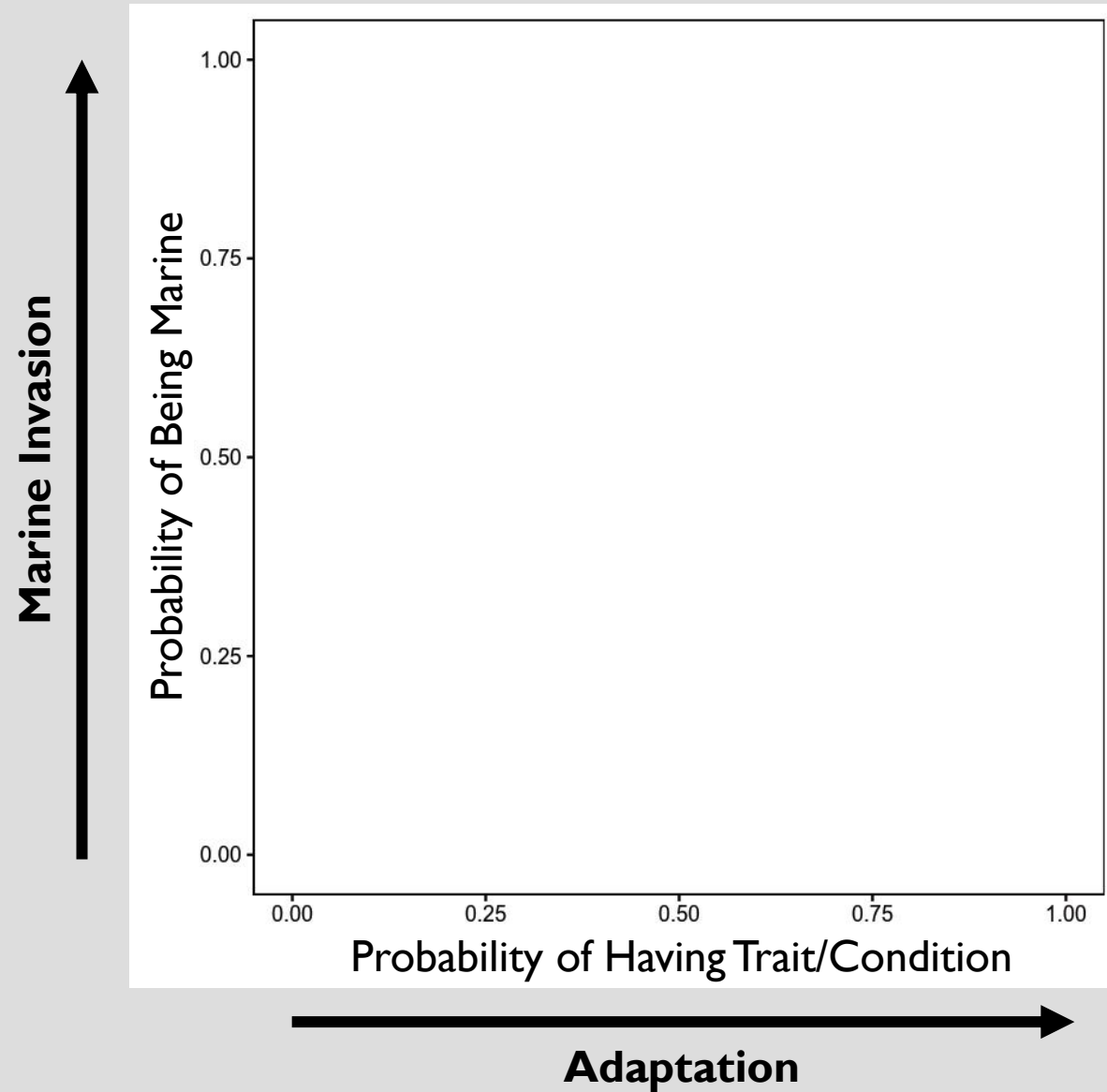
FIRST, RECONSTRUCT WHEN THE MARINE INVASIONS OCCURRED



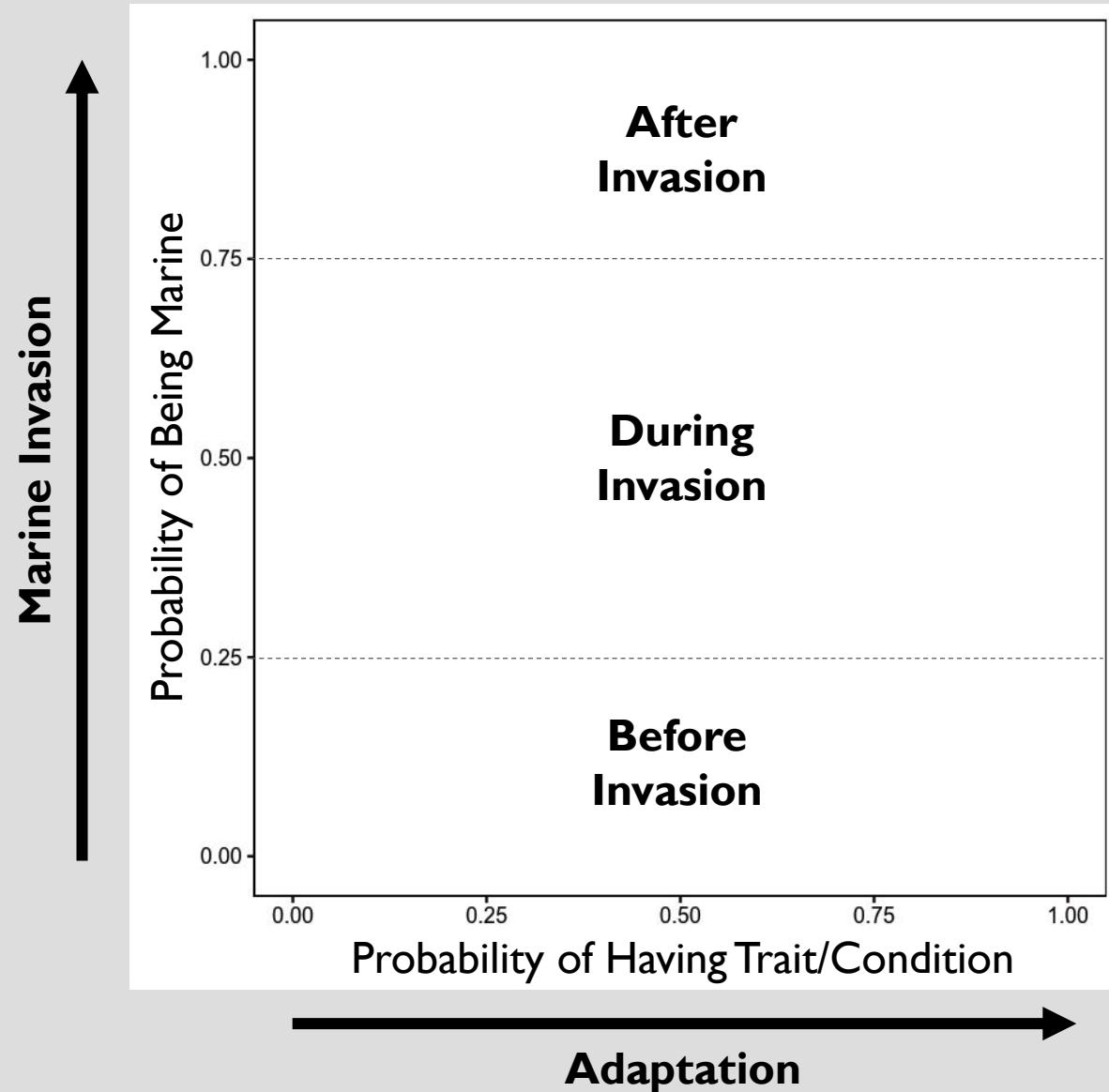
THEN, RECONSTRUCT OTHER TRAITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES



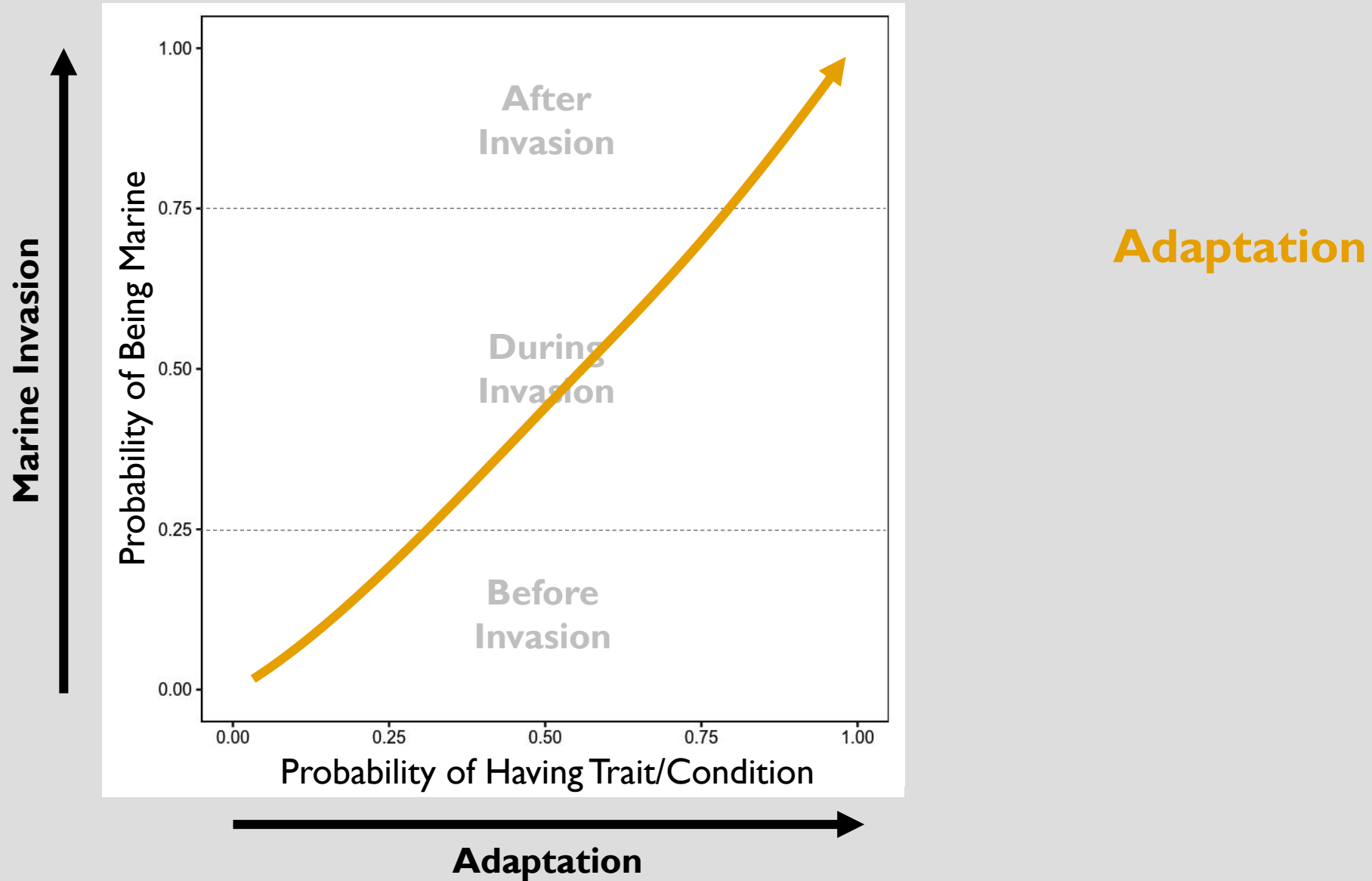
JOINT RECONSTRUCTIONS



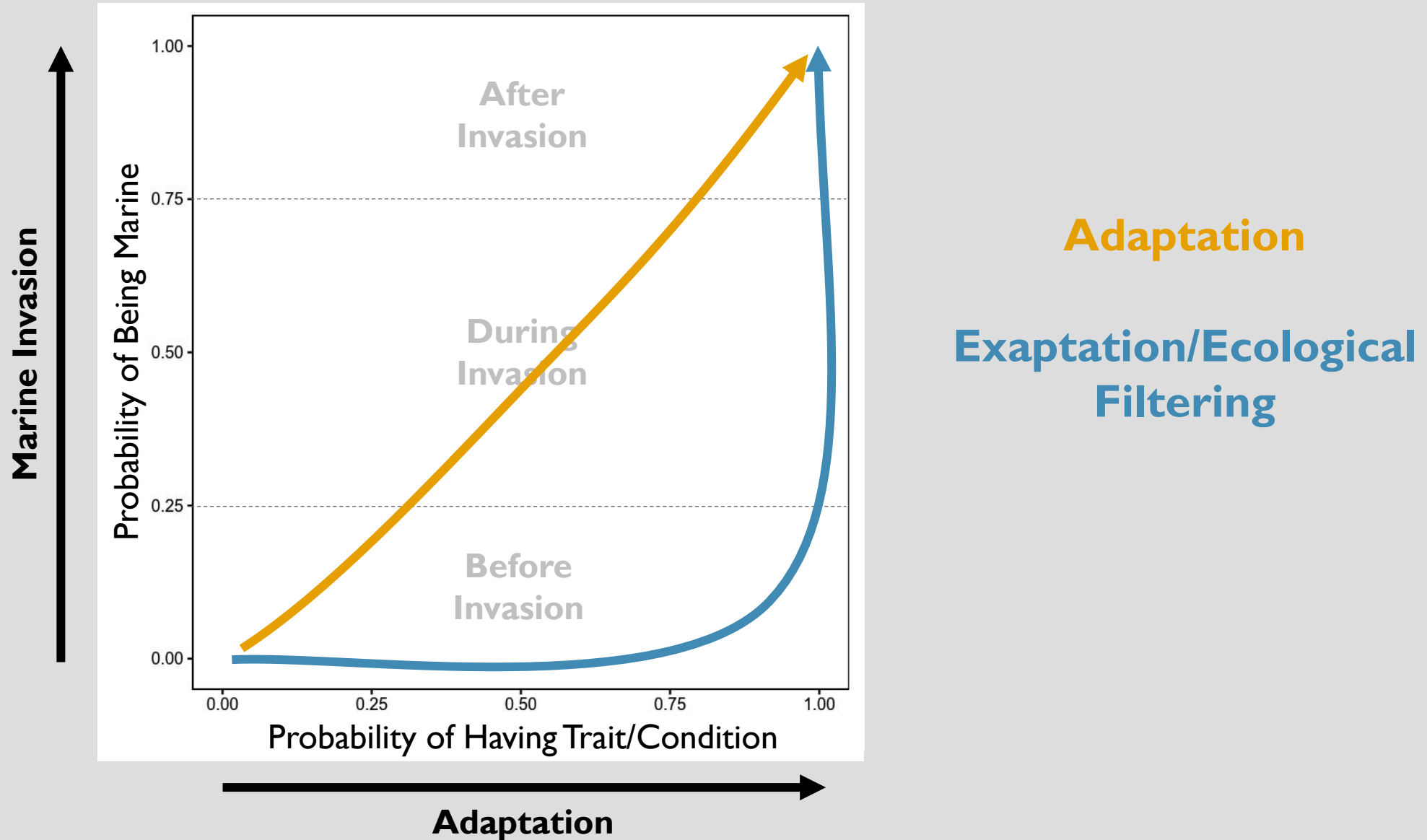
JOINT RECONSTRUCTIONS



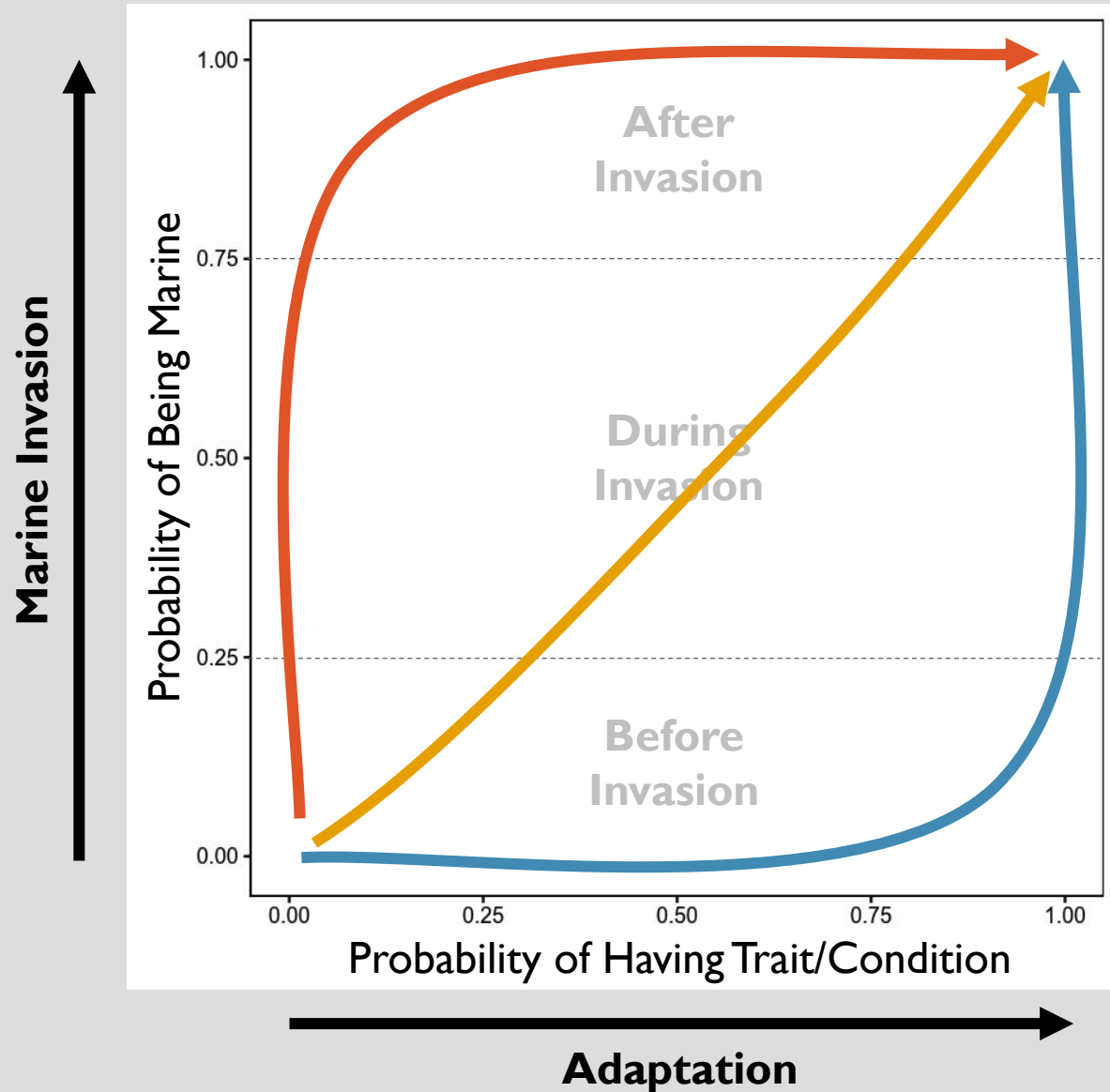
JOINT RECONSTRUCTIONS



JOINT RECONSTRUCTIONS



JOINT RECONSTRUCTIONS

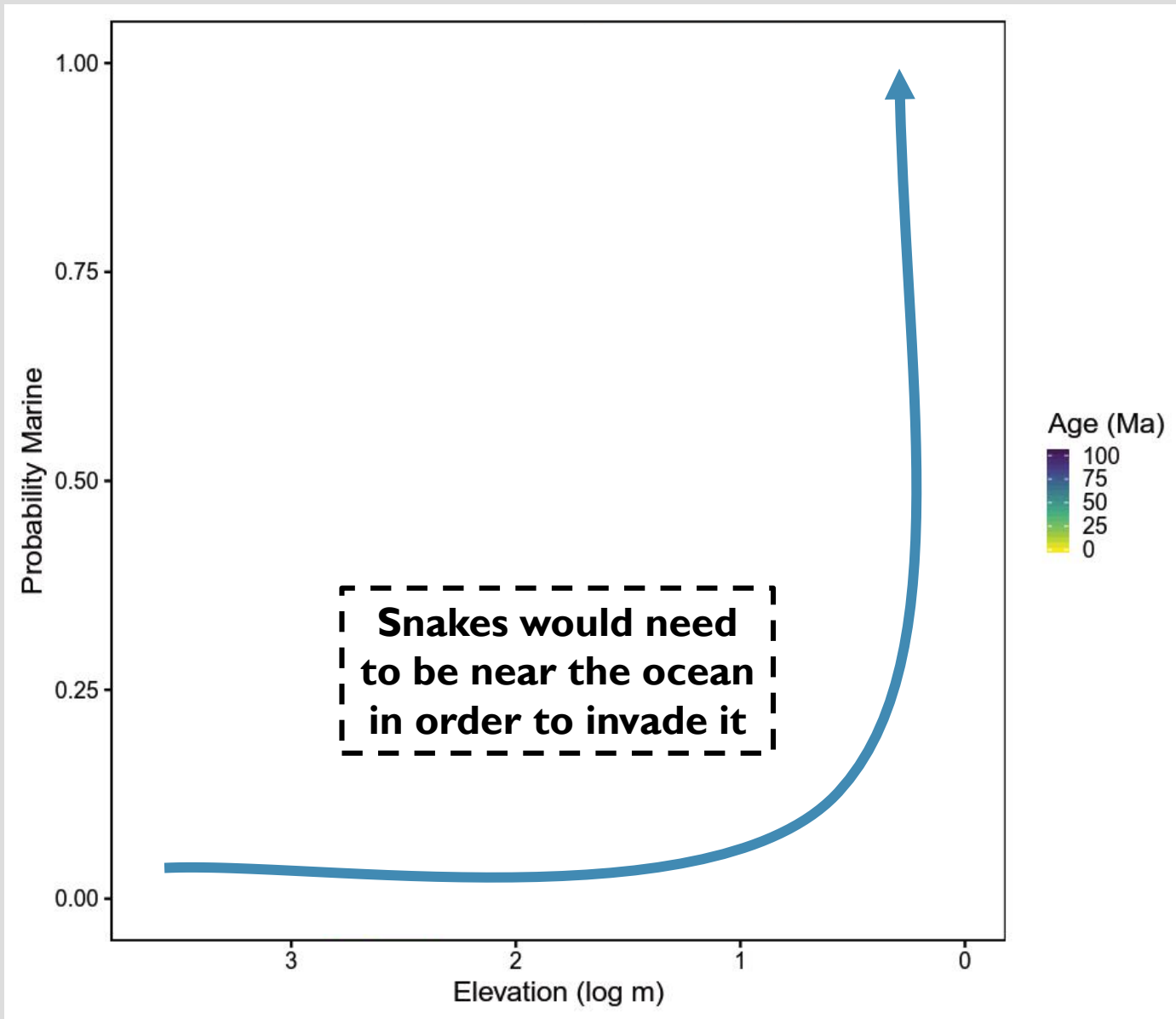


Adaptation

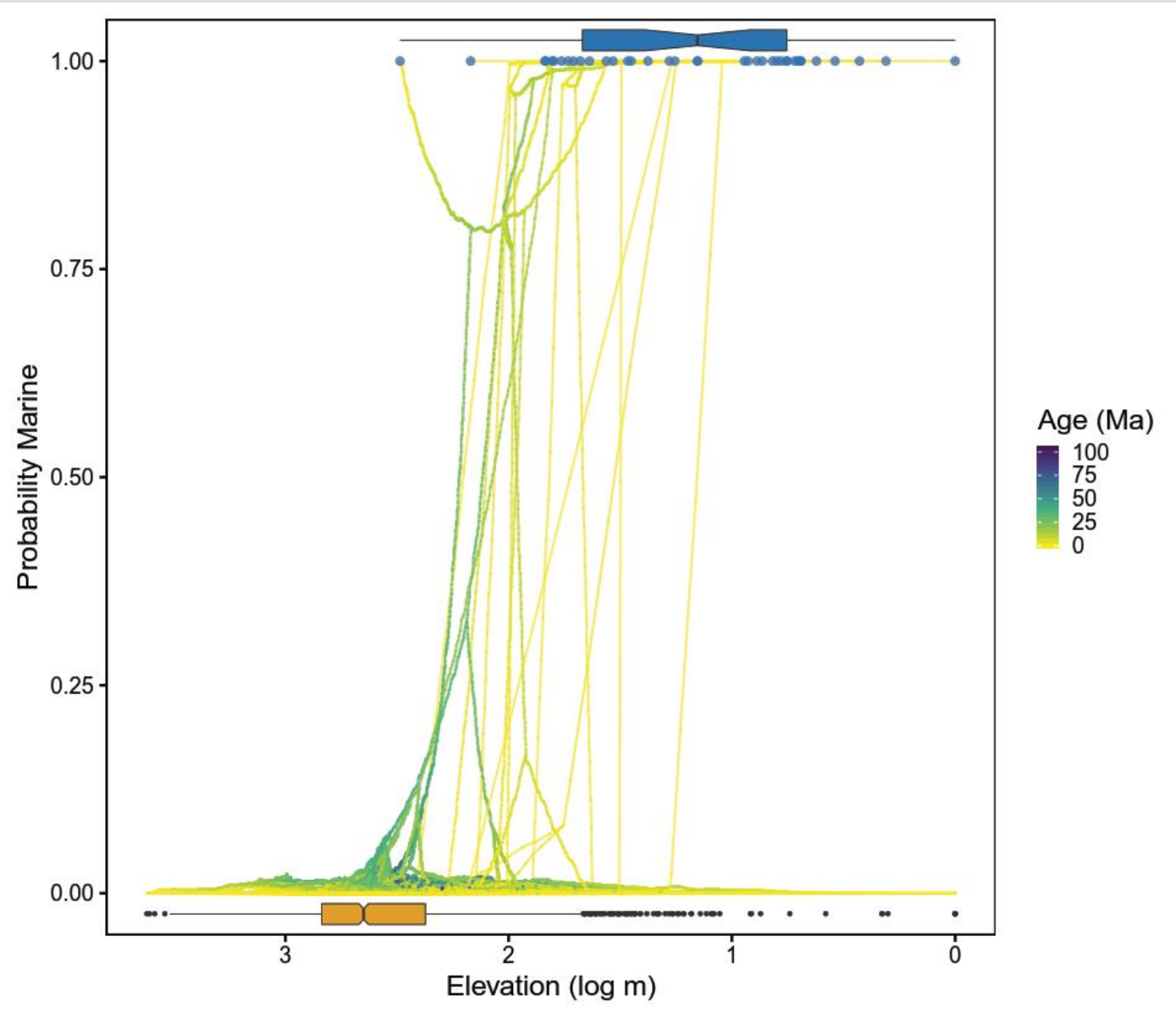
**Exaptation/Ecological
Filtering**

**Nonadaptation
(or adaptation for
something else)**

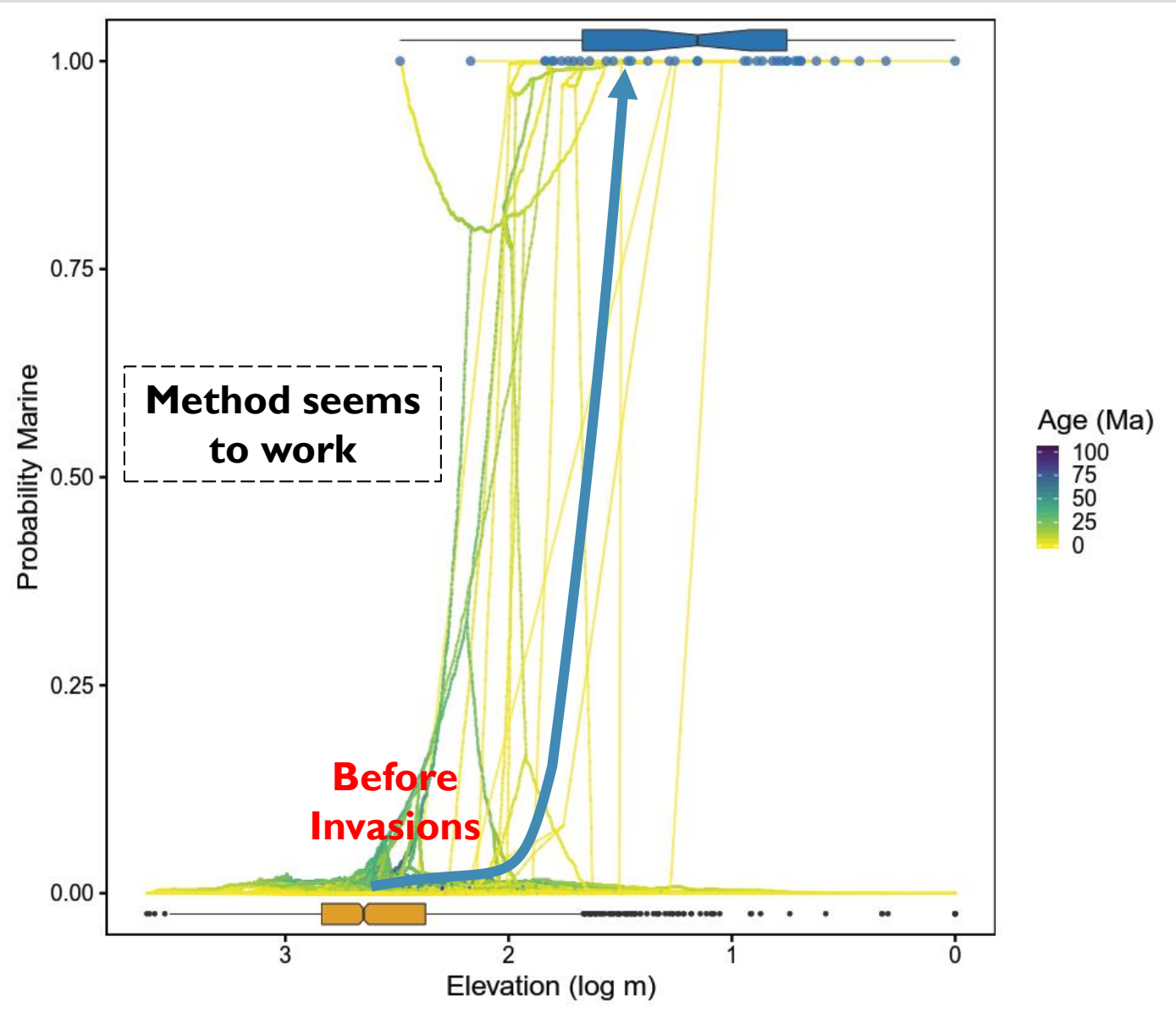
TESTING THE METHOD: ELEVATION



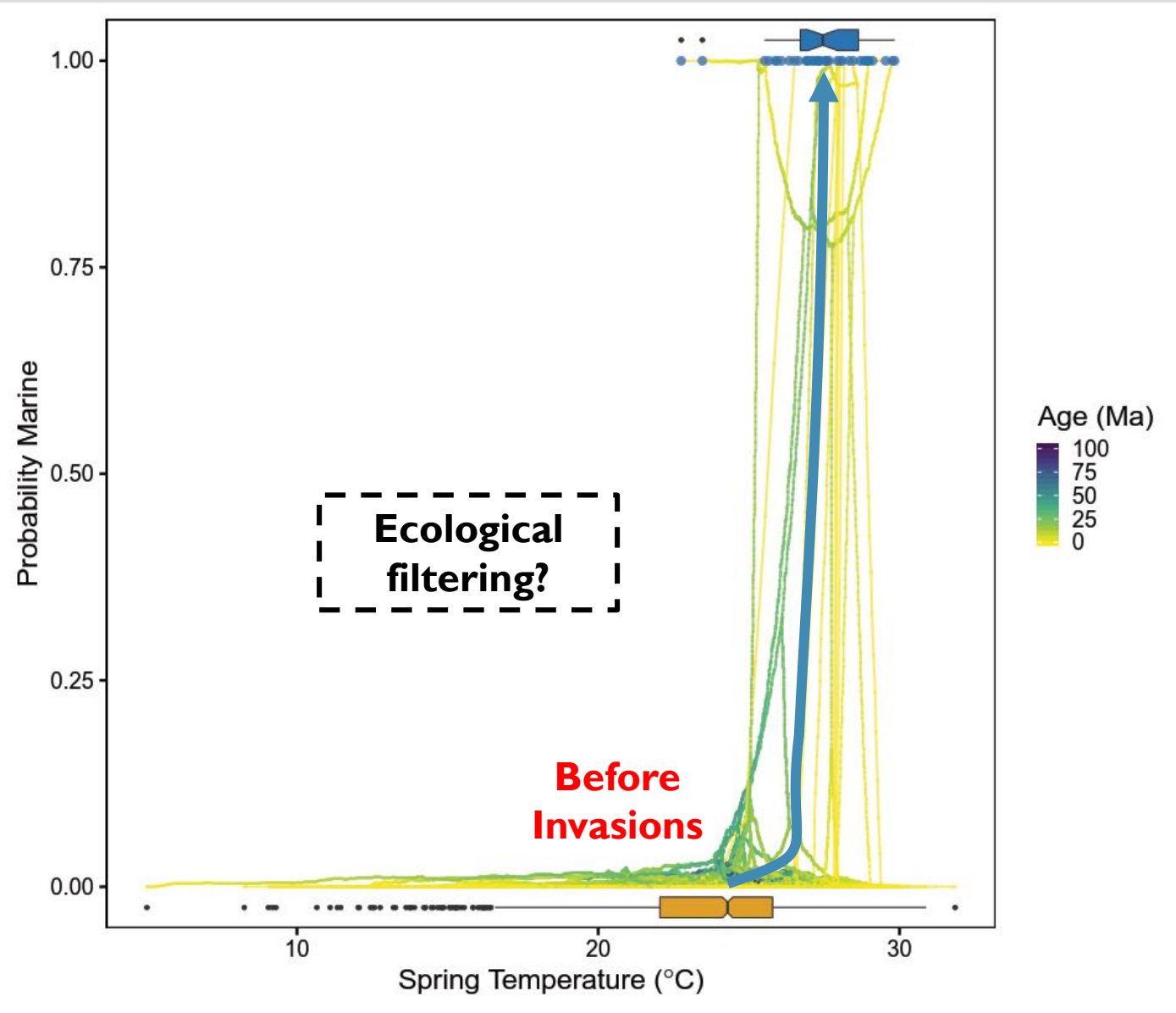
TESTING THE METHOD: ELEVATION



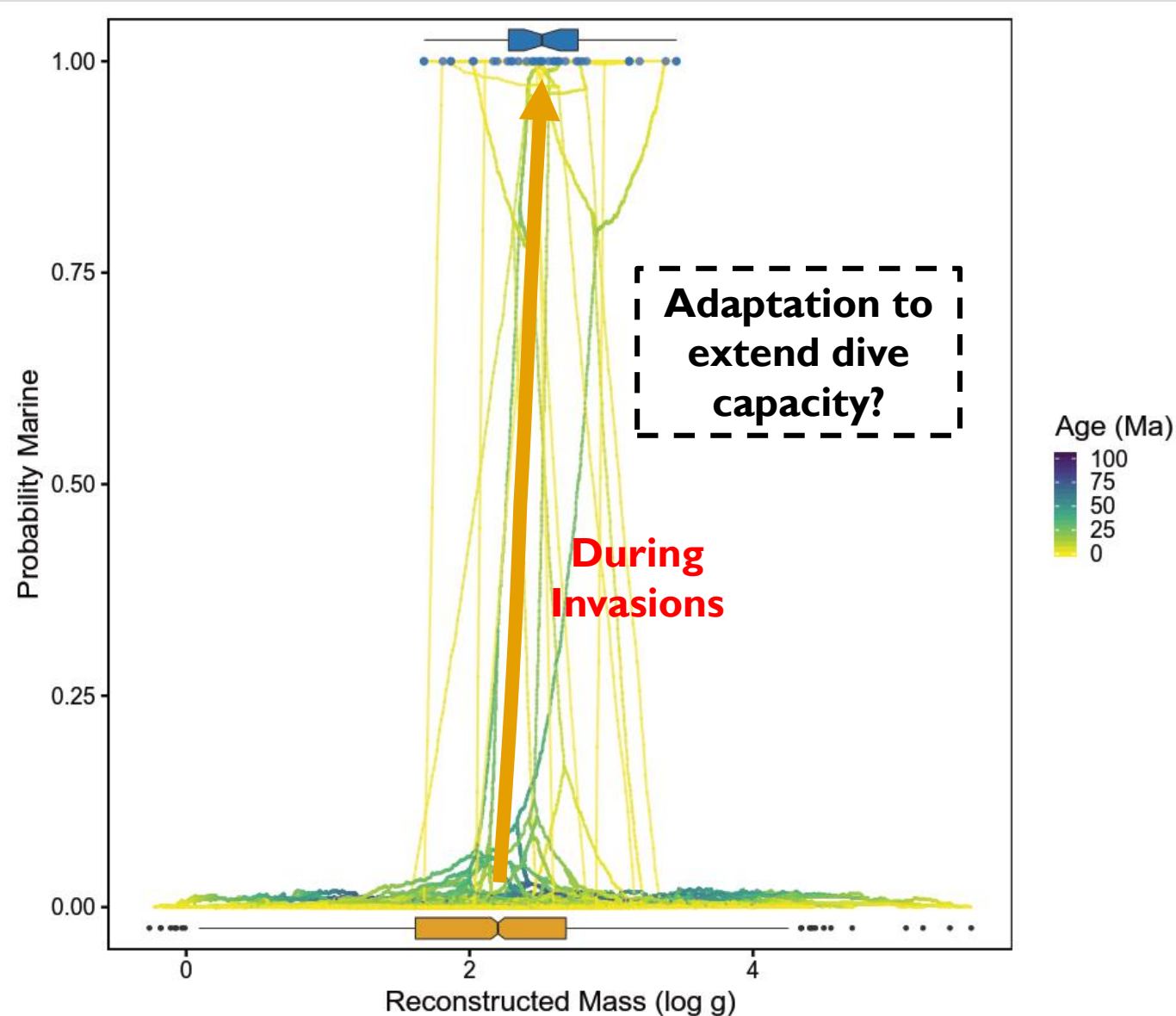
TESTING THE METHOD: ELEVATION



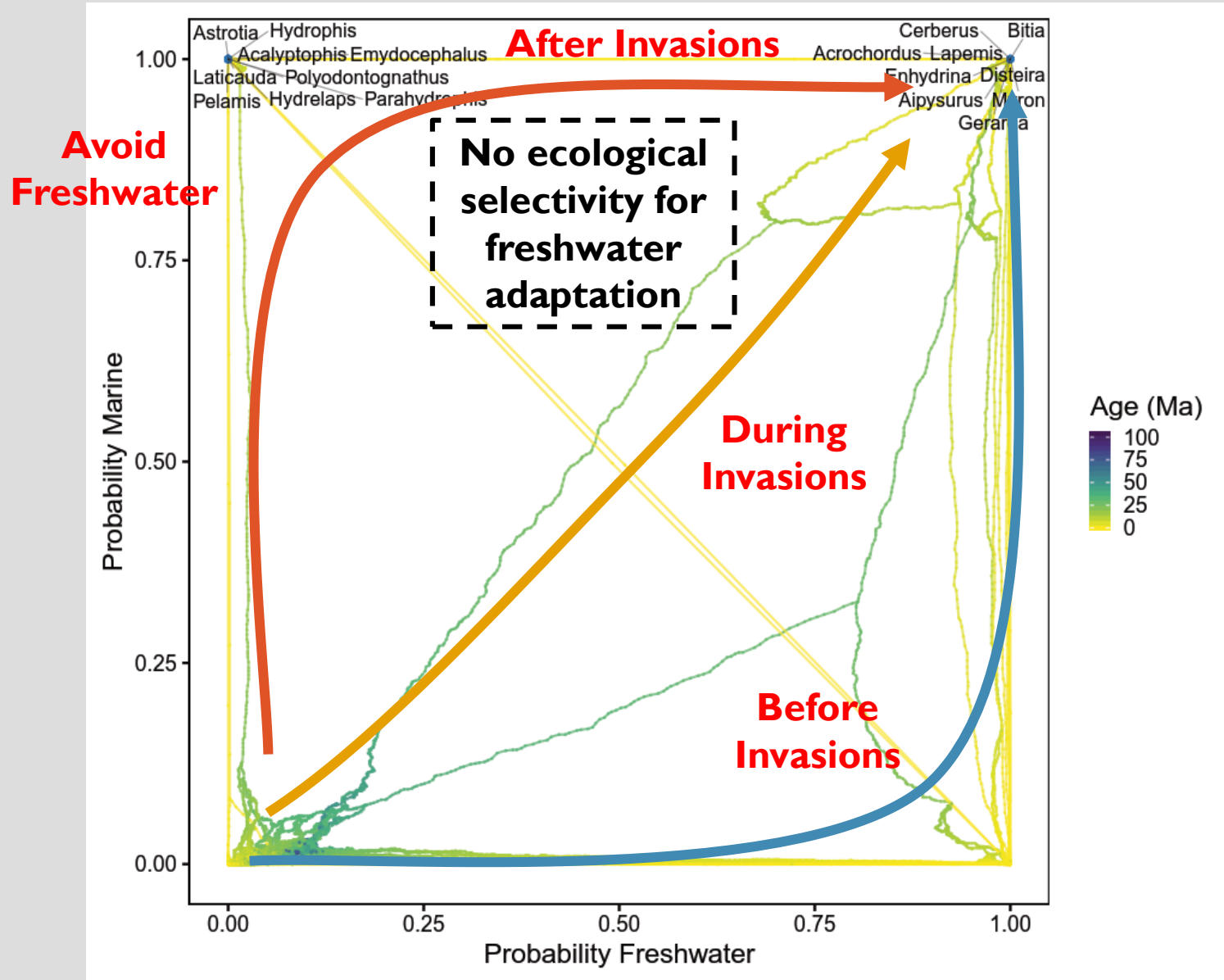
TEMPERATURE



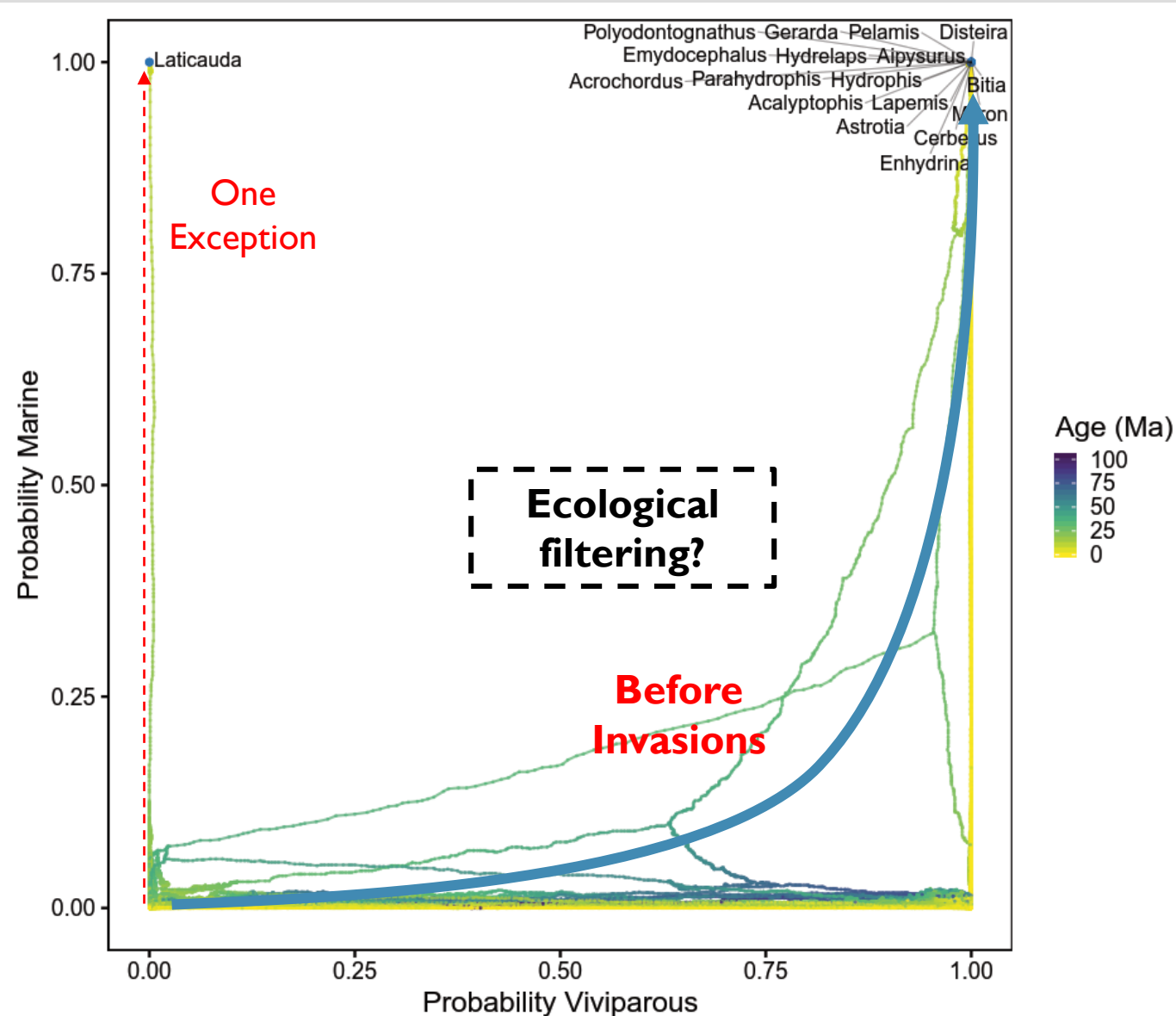
BODY MASS



FRESHWATER OCCUPANCY



VIVIPARITY



A sea snake with a light-colored body and dark cross-bands is swimming over a field of brown, rounded coral. The scene is dimly lit, with a blueish tint.

CONCLUSIONS

- While aquatic snakes are significantly larger than their terrestrial counterparts, it doesn't match the extent in mammals or crocs
- Viviparity appears to have evolved before these lineages invaded the ocean, likely as an adaptation for some other reason
- This facilitated marine invasions of snakes from many different environments, but only if those environments were in tropical regions at low elevation

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Elsie Carrillo

Christianne Orsmby

Jonathan Payne

Payne Paleobiology Lab

Lyons Paleoecology Lab



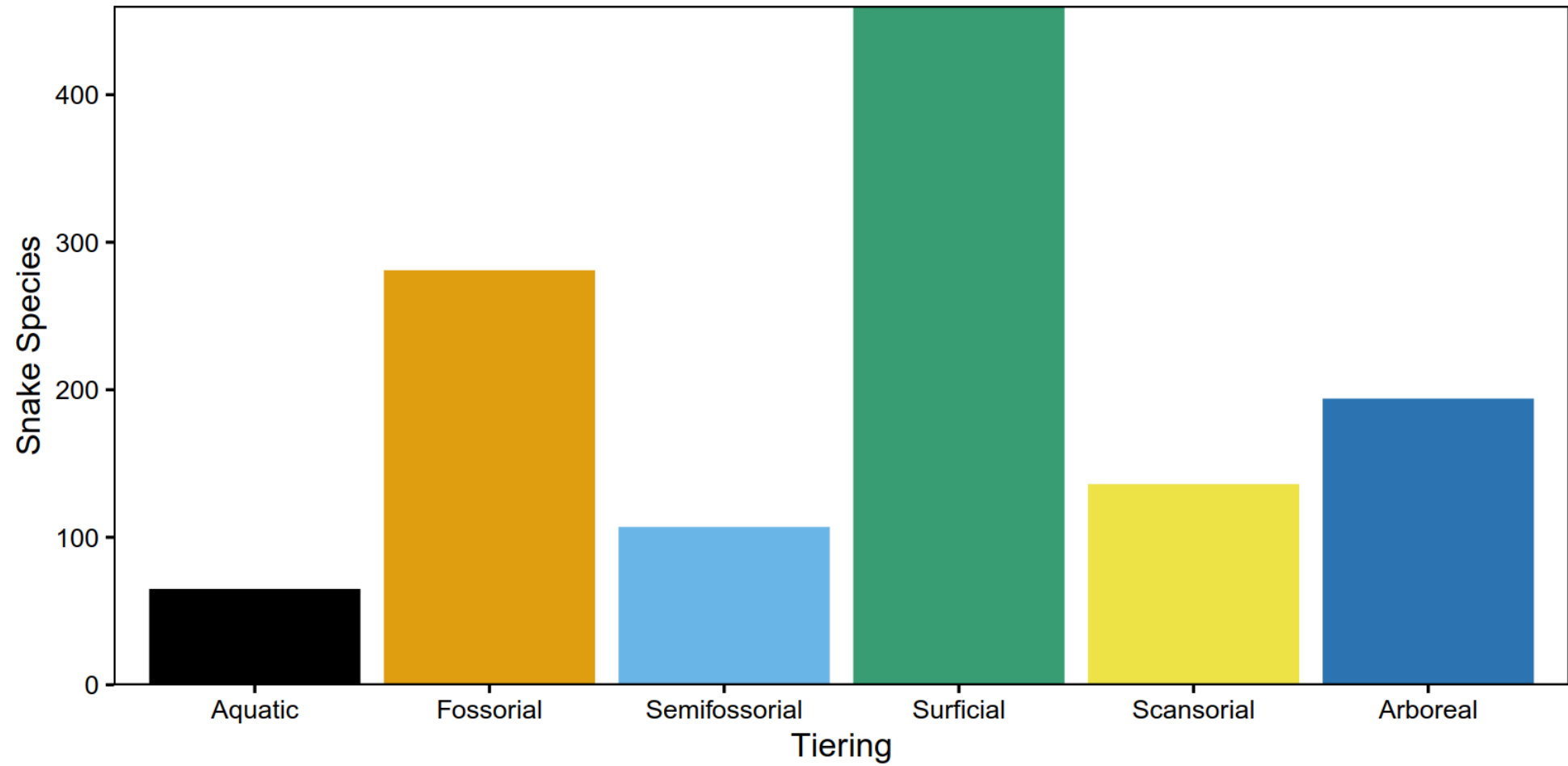
Stanford

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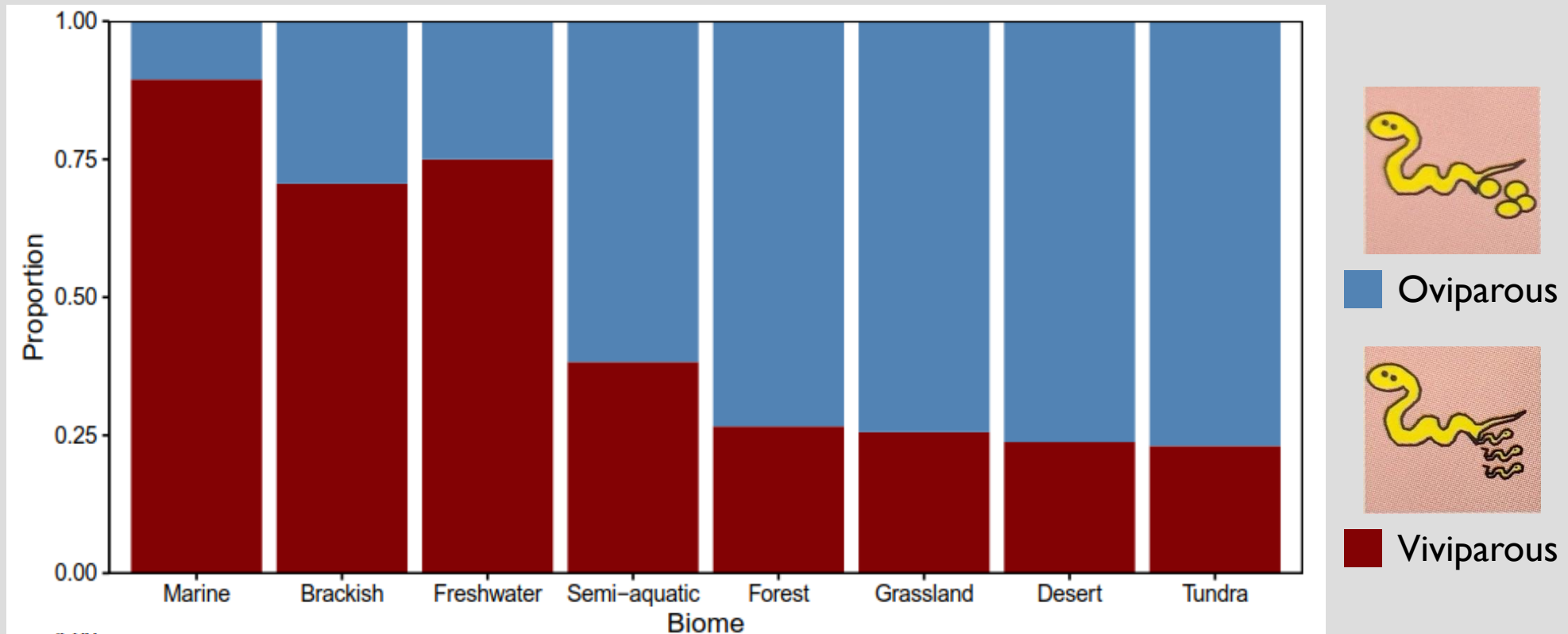


QUESTIONS?

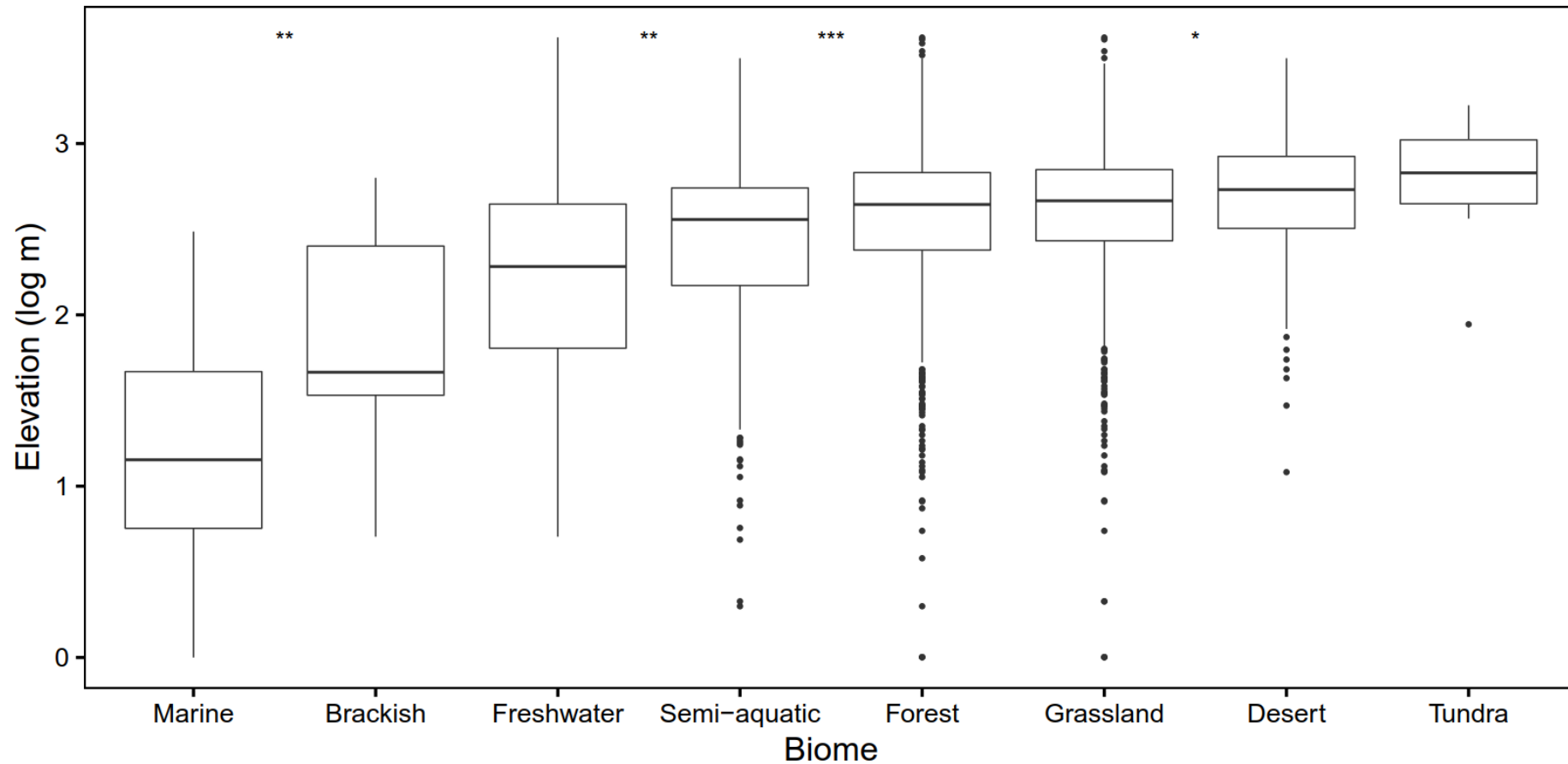
TIERING



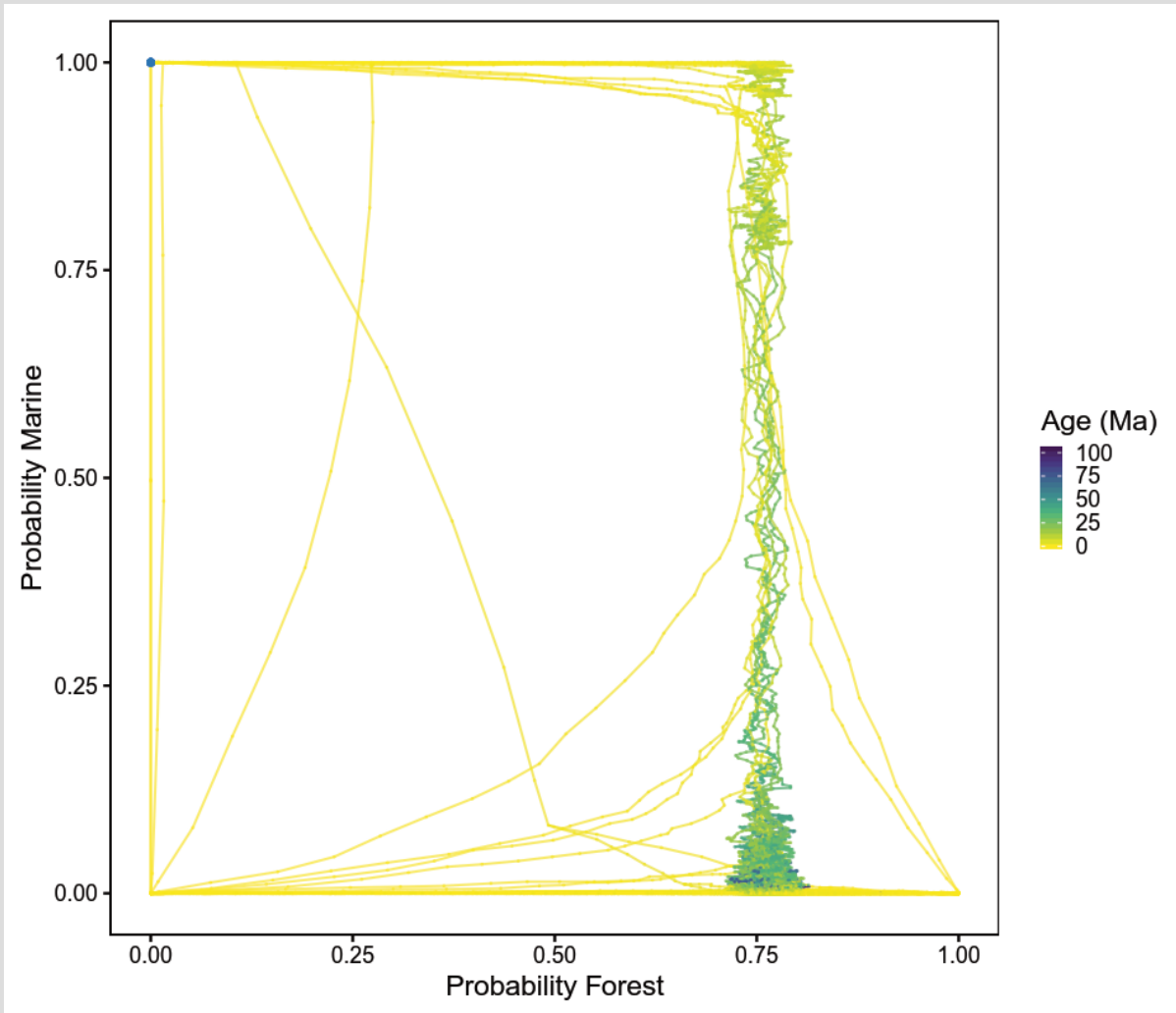
REPRODUCTIVE MODE BY BIOME



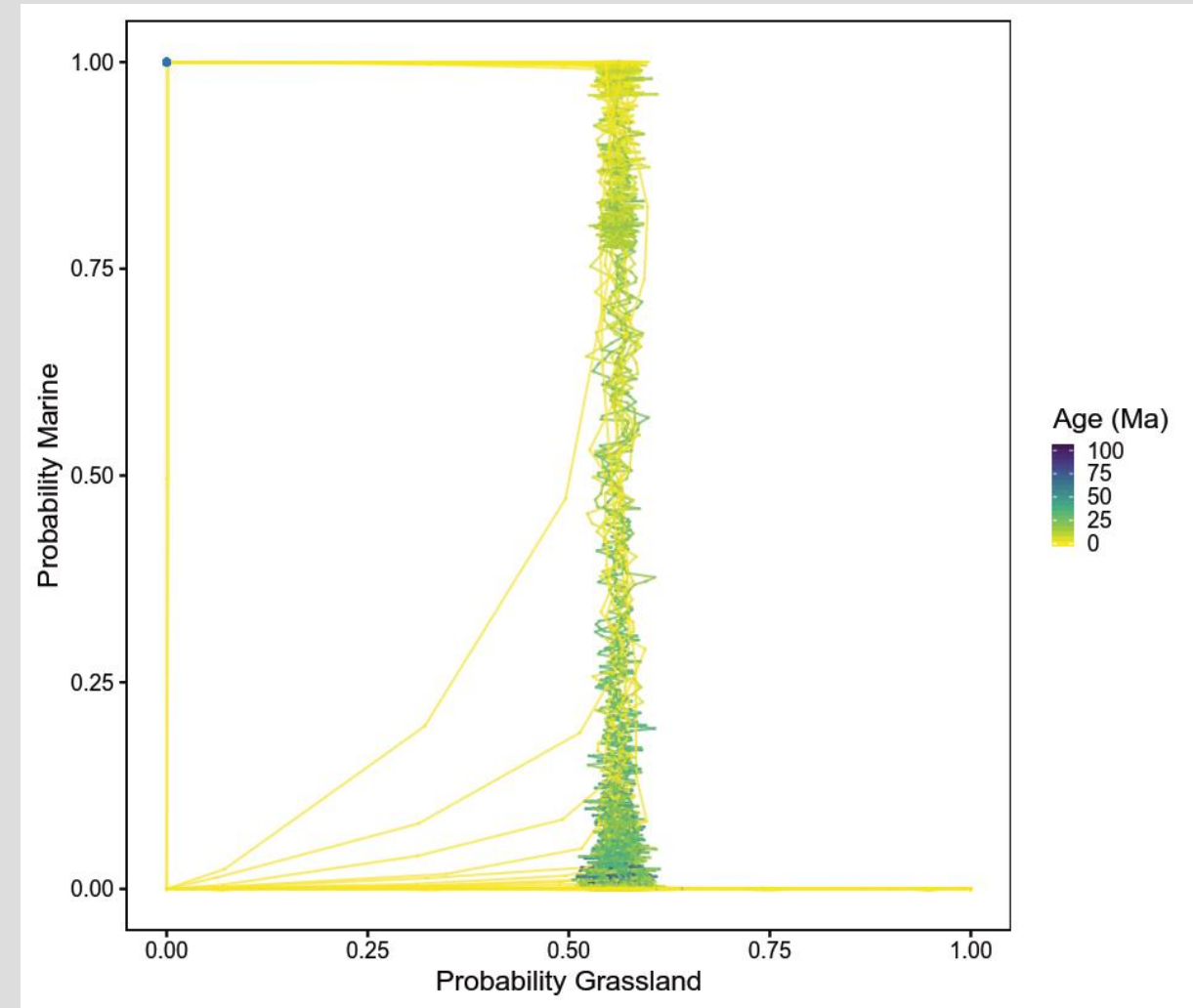
ELEVATION BY BIOME



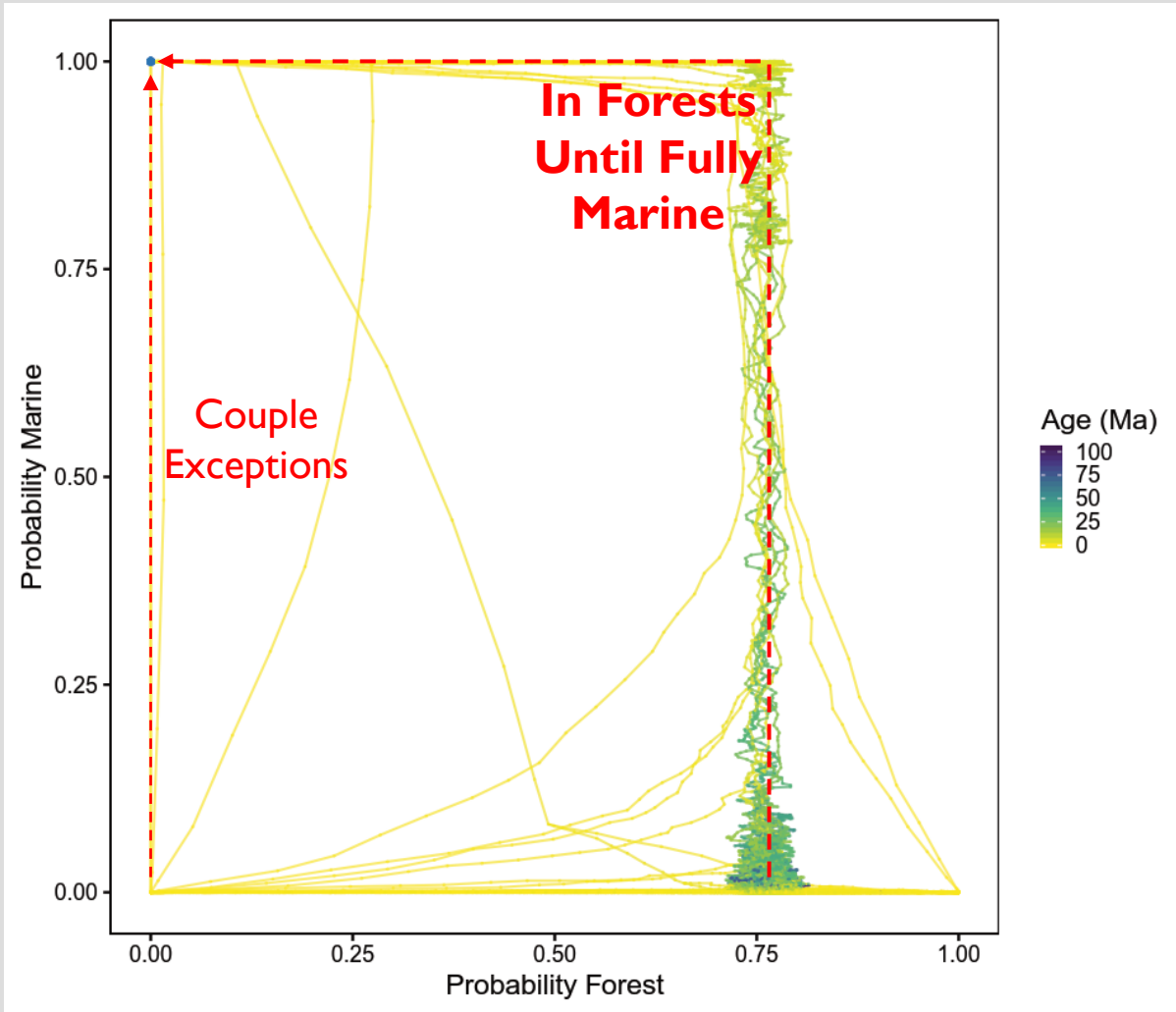
Forest Occupancy



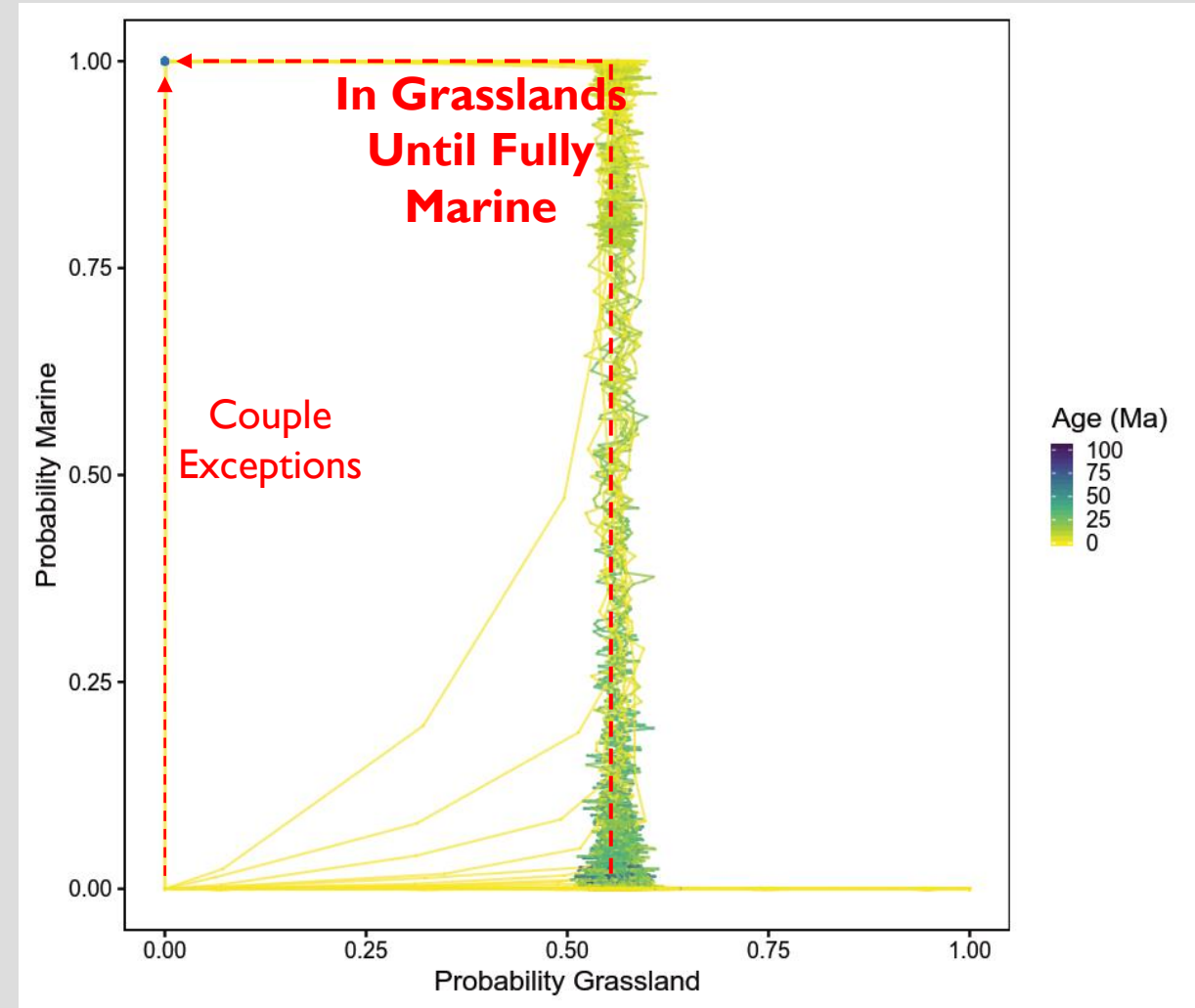
Grassland Occupancy



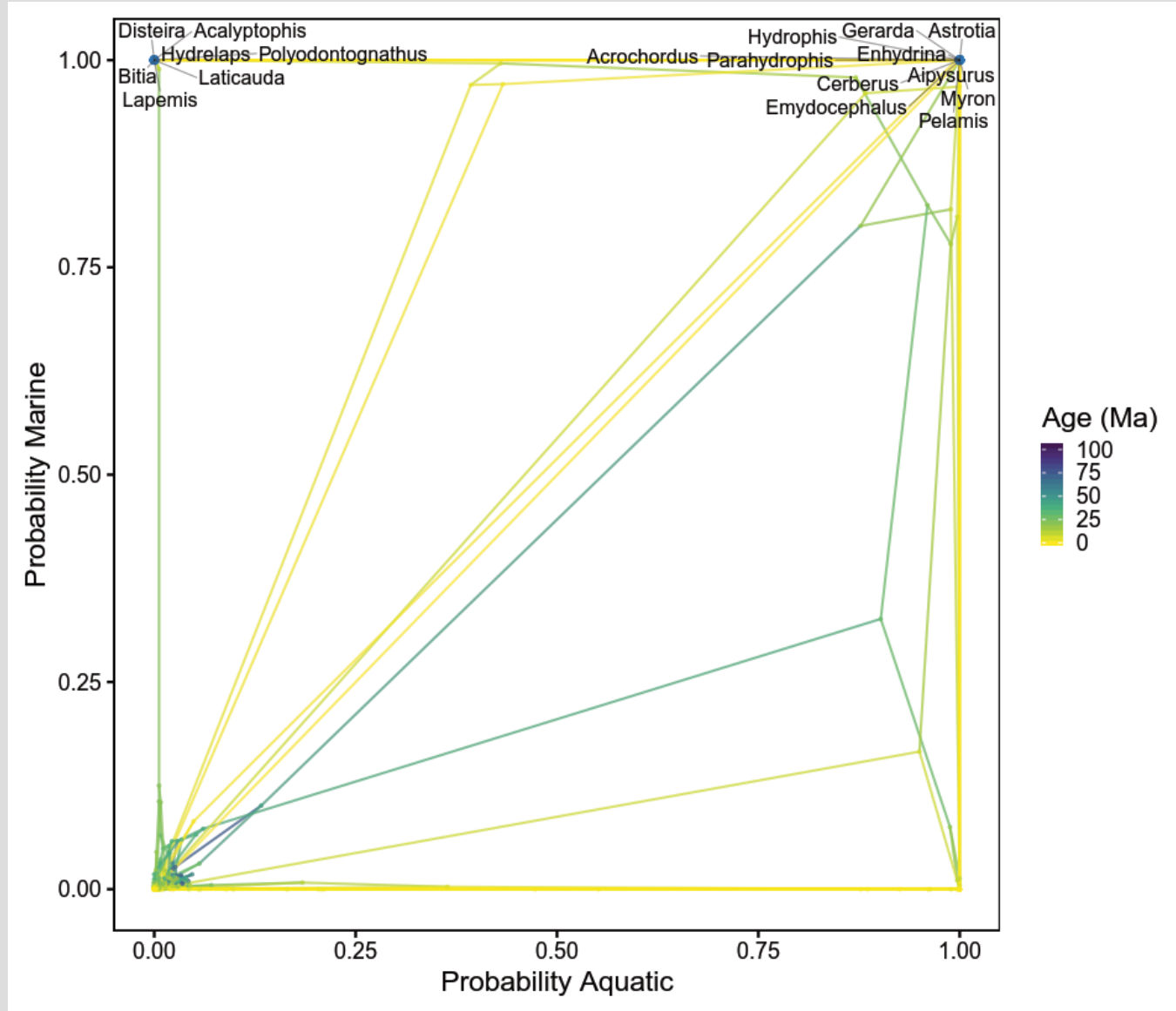
Forest Occupancy



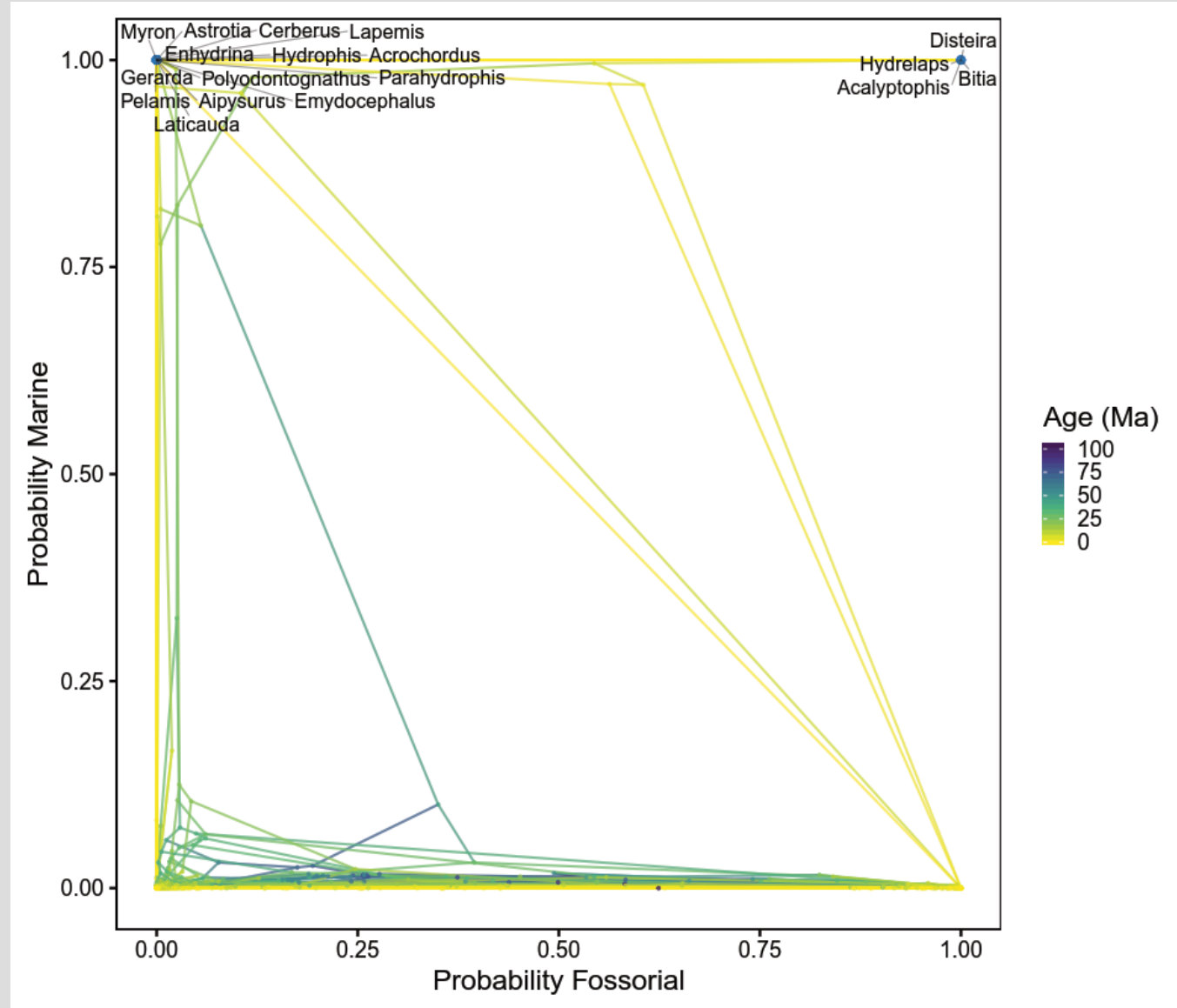
Grassland Occupancy



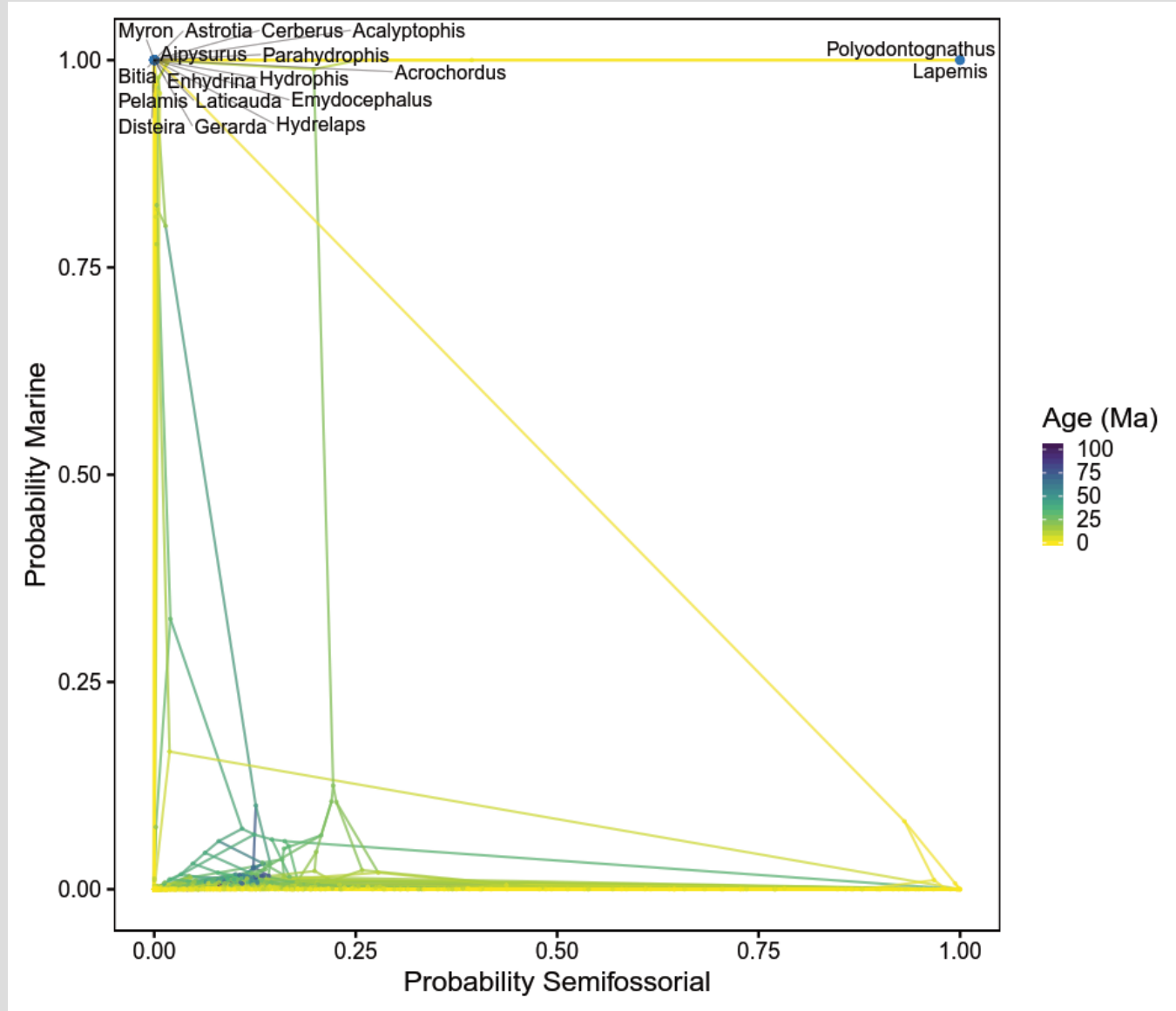
Aquatic Tier



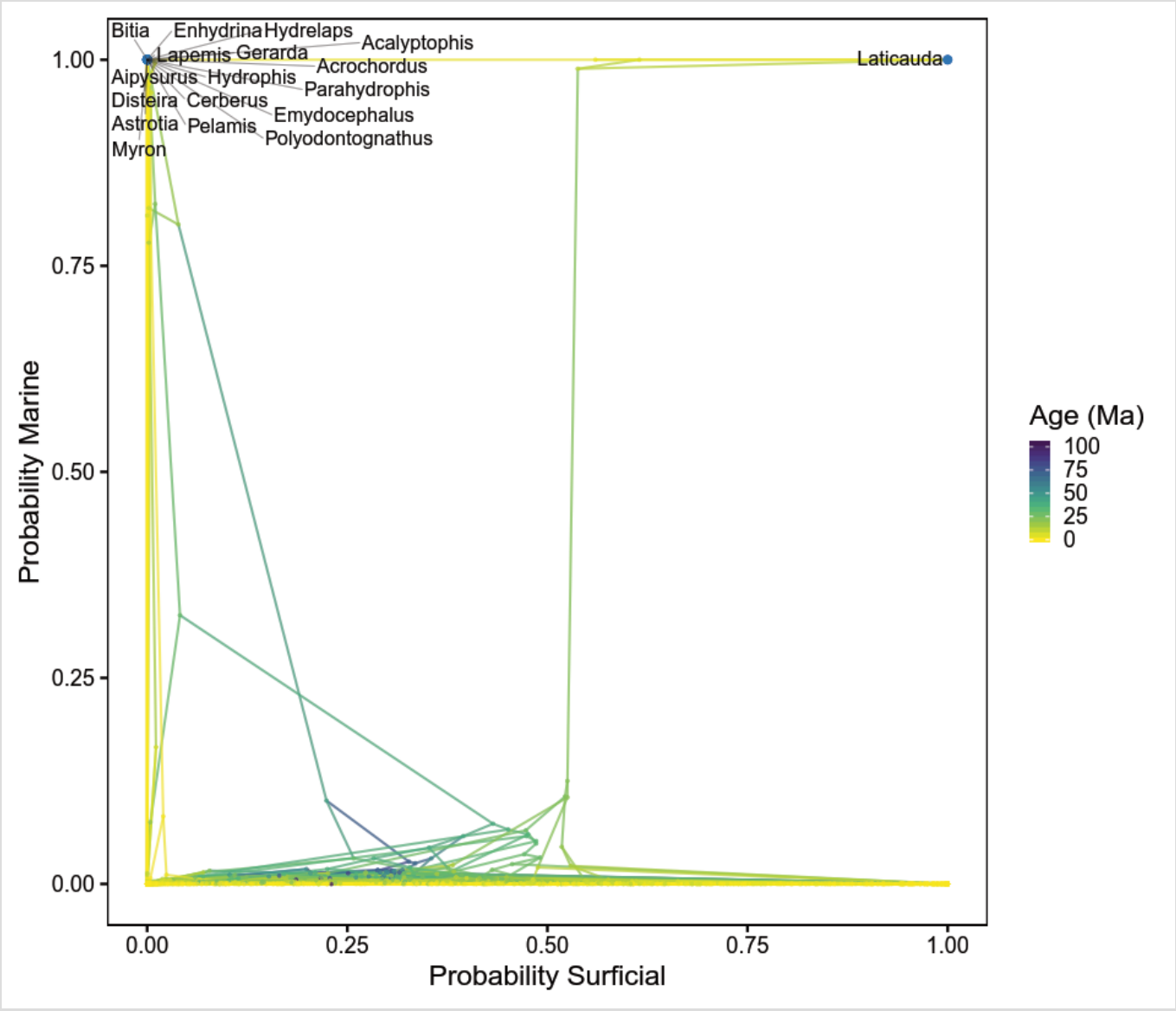
Fossorial Tier



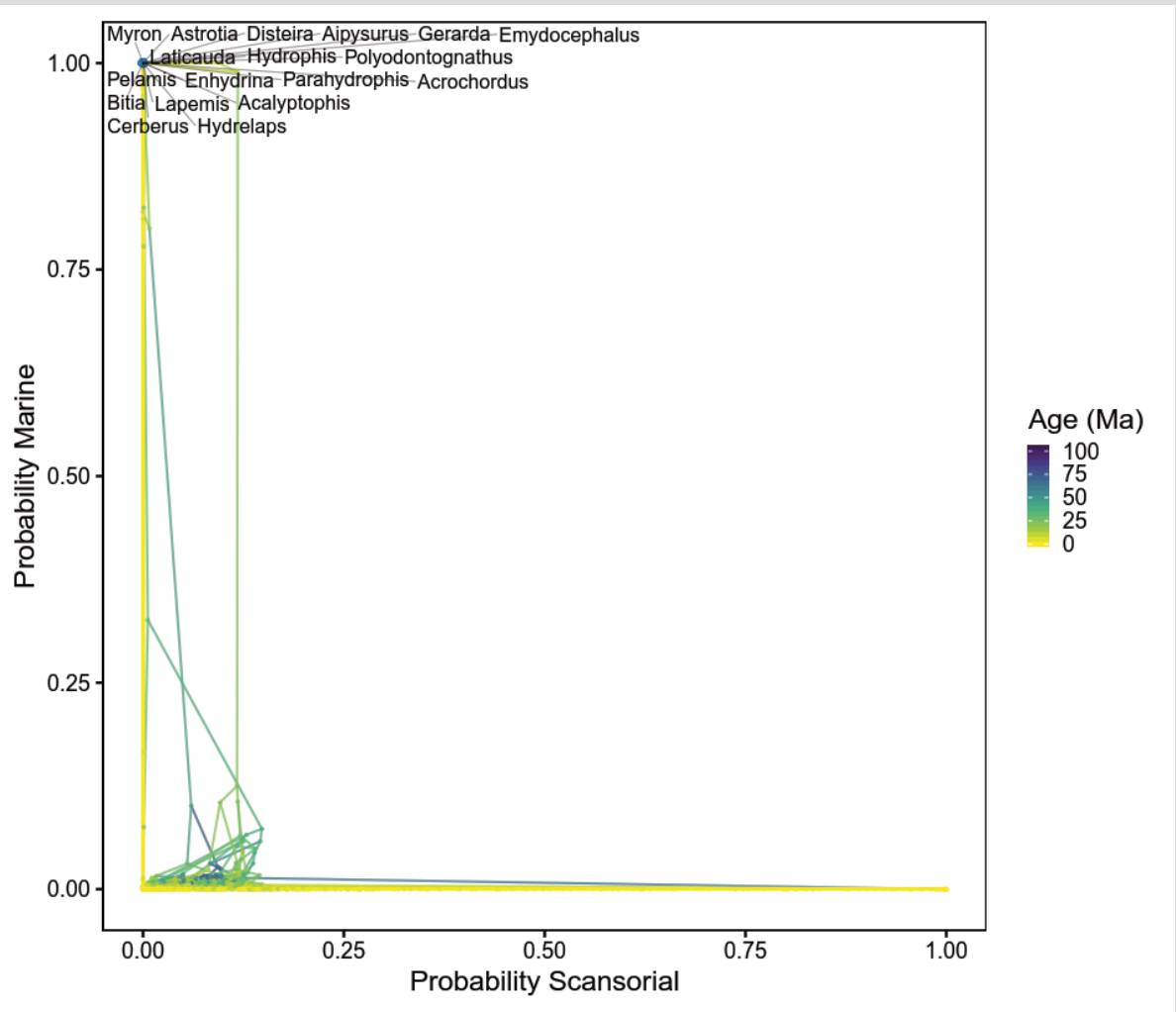
Semifossorial Tier



Surficial Tier



Scansorial Tier



Arboreal Tier

