



# The New Statistics with R: An Introduction for Biologists

By Andy Hector

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## The New Statistics with R: An Introduction for Biologists By Andy Hector

Statistical methods are a key tool for all scientists working with data, but learning the basic mathematical skills can be one of the most challenging components of a biologist's training. This accessible book provides a contemporary introduction to the classical techniques and modern extensions of linear model analysis: one of the most useful approaches in the analysis of scientific data in the life and environmental sciences. It emphasizes an estimation-based approach that accounts for recent criticisms of the over-use of probability values, and introduces alternative approaches using information criteria. Statistics are introduced through worked analyses performed in R, the free open source programming language for statistics and graphics, which is rapidly becoming the standard software in many areas of science and technology. These analyses use real data sets from ecology, evolutionary biology and environmental science, and the data sets and R scripts are available as support material. The book's structure and user friendly style stem from the author's 20 years of experience teaching statistics to life and environmental scientists at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The New Statistics with R is suitable for senior undergraduate and graduate students, professional researchers, and practitioners in the fields of ecology, evolution, environmental studies, and computational biology.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Prof. Hector's book should be very much welcome by students, statistics teachers and practitioners. The individual chapters are ready-made computer laboratory sessions. Working through them will certainly teach the basics of data analysis." --*Systematic Biology*

"[O]verall the book gives useful, ecumenical, and reliable statistical advice. I would recommend it for courses that are trying to equip students who already know elementary statistics with the basic tools they need to understand and perform analyses of real, messy data." --*Ben Bolker, The Quarterly Review of Biology*

"The book is suitable for undergraduate and graduate students, researchers and practitioners in biological sciences. ... [W]orthy of wide use." --*The Biologist*

#### About the Author

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Andy Hector is Professor of Ecology in the University of Oxford's Department of Plant Sciences. He currently convenes and teaches statistics on the Quantitative Methods for Biologists course for undergraduates. He is a community ecologist interested in biodiversity loss and its consequences for ecosystem functioning, stability and services and scientific PI of the Sabah Biodiversity Experiment. He has contributed to several publications on ecological analysis.

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