

Article 9 - Gaston 2000

1. What four factors directly determine the number of species present in a given area?
2. Which of these four factors are most important in determining the species richness of very large areas?
3. Which of these four factors are likely to be most important in determining the species richness of small areas (e.g. small islands in the ocean)?
4. What are the typical shapes for the relationship between species richness and the following factors:
 - a) area sampled
 - b) latitude
 - c) annual precipitation
 - d) elevation
5. Is there a strong positive covariance in the species richness of higher taxa?
 - a) If there was, of what practical use would it be?
6. Identify three groups of organisms that deviate from the typical latitudinal gradient in species richness.
7. What may account for a broadly positive relationship between species richness and energy availability at geographical scales?