1 Title: Population demography maintains biogeographic boundaries

- 2 Authors: Chloé Schmidt^{1+*}, Gabriel Muñoz², Lesley T. Lancaster³, JP Lessard², Katharine A. Marske⁴, Katie
- 3 E. Marshall⁵, Colin J. Garroway^{1*}

4 Affiliations:

- ⁵ ¹ Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada
- 6 ² Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada
- 7 ³ School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom
- 8 ⁴ Department of Biology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, USA
- 9 ⁵ Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- ¹⁰ [†]*Present address:* Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Center for Biodiversity and
- 11 Global Change, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
- 12

13 ***Correspondence to:**

- 14 Chloé Schmidt
- 15 email: chloe.schmidt@yale.edu
- 16
- 17 Colin J Garroway
- 18 email: colin.garroway@umanitoba.ca
- 19
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35 Abstract

- 36 Global biodiversity is organized into biogeographic regions that comprise distinct biotas. The
- 37 contemporary factors maintaining differences in species composition between regions are poorly
- 38 understood. Given evidence that populations with sufficient genetic variation can adapt to fill new
- habitats, it is surprising that more homogenization of species assemblages across regions has not
- 40 occurred. Theory suggests that expansion across biogeographic regions could be limited by reduced
- 41 adaptive capacity due to demographic variation along environmental gradients, but this possibility has
- 42 not been empirically explored. Using three independently curated data sets describing continental
- 43 patterns of mammalian demography and population genetics, we show that populations near
- 44 biogeographic boundaries have lower effective population sizes and genetic diversity, and are more
- 45 genetically differentiated. These patterns are consistent with reduced adaptive capacity in areas where
- 46 one biogeographic region transitions into the next. That these patterns are replicated across mammals
- 47 suggest they are stable and generalizable in their contribution to long-term limits on biodiversity
- 48 homogenization. Understanding the contemporary processes that maintain compositional differences
- 49 among regional biotas is crucial for our understanding of the current and future organization of global
- 50 biodiversity.
- 51

53 Introduction

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54 Naturalists and biodiversity scientists have long been fascinated by the dramatic faunal and floral 55 transitions we observe among regions (von Humboldt 1807; Sclater 1858; Wallace 1876; Udvardy 1975; 56 Kreft and Jetz 2010; Holt et al. 2013). The factors that differentiate these geographically distinctive 57 species assemblages—biogeographic regions—are key to understanding the current organization of 58 biodiversity. The origins of biodiversity patterns are often viewed as the result of macroevolutionary 59 regional speciation-extinction and colonization dynamics occurring across millions of years (Holt et al. 60 2013; Lomolino et al. 2016). While these processes underlie the evolution of distinct biotas, they do not 61 explain the processes that sustain regional variation and limit homogenization. The biological constraints 62 that sustain biogeographic regions should result from population-level processes that limit species' 63 abilities to expand into new ecozones. However, the extent to which population-level demographic and 64 genetic processes might scale up to shape continental biotas has yet to be empirically tested. 65 Biogeographic regions are defined from species distributional data, and boundaries between regions are 66 areas with notable increases in species turnover coinciding with a relatively high number of species' 67 range limits. Transitions between biogeographic regions are typically characterized by the meeting of 68 distinct biomes or ecozones, and the overlap of various habitats form a patchy environmental mosaic 69 (Ferro and Morrone 2014). We might expect that populations with sufficient genetic variation would be 70 capable of colonizing and adapting to adjacent habitats, eventually causing regional species assemblages 71 to merge. However, species assemblages remain clustered forming distinctive biogeographic regions. 72 Theory on the evolution of species ranges suggests that changes in the demography and genetic 73 diversity of populations associated with heterogeneous and changing environments could limit the 74 efficiency with which populations adapt to neighboring environments with different conditions, thereby 75 limiting expansion (Eckert et al. 2008; Connallon and Sgrò 2018; Polechová 2018). Patterns of decreasing

population density and effective population size, and increasing genetic differentiation consistently

77 emerge in simulations of population demographics across environmental gradients (Polechová and 78 Barton 2015; Polechová 2018; Bridle et al. 2019). Contemporary effective population size is an estimate 79 of the rate at which a population loses genetic diversity due to genetic drift, and it is inversely 80 proportional to the efficiency with which selection can act on beneficial genetic variants (Charlesworth 81 and Charlesworth 2010; Ellegren and Galtier 2016). Thus, range expansion across biogeographic 82 transition zones could be restricted because of limits on the efficiency of local adaptation, due to the 83 increased strength of drift relative to selection, and the steepness of the environmental gradient 84 (Polechová 2018). Both biotic and abiotic factors contribute to the steepness of environmental gradients 85 (Case and Taper 2000; Goldberg and Lande 2007; Polechová and Barton 2015). However, in the absence 86 of clines in effective population size, adaptation and spread along environmental gradients remains 87 theoretically possible (Kirkpatrick and Barton 1997; Polechová 2018).

88 We therefore predict that transitions between biogeographic regions should be characterized by multi-89 species gradients in the density and genetic characteristics of populations. Assuming underlying 90 environmental gradients are associated with biogeographic transitions, we predicted that effective 91 population size, genetic diversity, and population density would decrease nearer to transition zones, and 92 that genetic differentiation would increase. There are also steep environmental gradients associated 93 with moving from inland to coastal habitats. Thus, if the logic underlying our predictions for 94 biogeographic transitions holds, we should also expect to see the same pattern with increasing 95 proximity to coastal biogeographic boundaries. We tested these predictions for North and South 96 American mammals due to the wealth of demographic, biogeographic, and genetic data available from 97 these regions. Our analyses took advantage of three independently curated open-source genetic and 98 demographic data sets (Lawrence et al. 2018, 2019; Santini et al. 2018a, 2019; Schmidt et al. 2020a, 99 2020b) and previously described delineations of biogeographic regions (Holt et al. 2013). If our models 100 successfully capture our predicted population-level gradients across these independent data sets, we

- 101 will have strong empirical evidence supporting the general importance of contemporary population-
- 102 level processes for preventing wholesale homogenization of communities across biogeographic regions.

104 Methods

105 Data sources

106 Genetic diversity. We used data from the MacroPopGen database for our estimates of site-level genetic 107 diversity (Lawrence et al. 2018, 2019). MacroPopGen aggregates data summaries from the literature for 108 vertebrates in the Americas and includes georeferenced, site-level data for 147 mammal species 109 sampled at 1874 sites across North and South America (Fig. S1). We used the raw site-level estimates of 110 genetic diversity provided on sheet 2 of the MacroPopGen database (Lawrence et al. 2018), rather than 111 the re-grouped populations based on genetic differentiation described in their main data set (see next 112 section for reasoning). We selected gene diversity (the average probability that two alleles chosen at 113 random from a sample site are different) as our metric of genetic diversity because it is not strongly 114 influenced by sample size (Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010), which varies widely in this data set 115 (range: 2 – 1563 individuals per sampling location; mean 48 individuals ± 93 SD). This value is reported 116 as H_e (expected heterozygosity) in MacroPopGen but we note the term gene diversity is used when 117 treating this value as the probability of selecting two different alleles from non-random mating 118 populations (Nei 1973). This and all other population genetic data sets used here are based on 119 microsatellite loci, for which diversity is well correlated with genome-wide diversity (correlated at R² 120 ~0.83; Mittell et al. 2015)

Effective population size and genetic differentiation. To assess spatial variation in local contemporary
 effective population size and genetic differentiation, we used a multispecies microsatellite data set

compiled by Schmidt et al. (2020a, 2020b) which includes data for 38 mammal species sampled across
 801 sites in Canada and the United States (Fig. S1). These data differ from MacroPopGen because they
 are aggregated raw genotypes instead of compiled literature summaries, which allows users to calculate
 population genetic metrics that are less routinely presented in the literature. From these data we
 estimated contemporary effective population size (Do et al. 2014) and population-specific F_{ST} (Weir and
 Goudet 2017).

We estimated the effective population size of the parental generation using the linkage disequilibrium method implemented in the NeEstimator software (Do et al. 2014). Effective population size is reliably measured using linkage disequilibrium (Waples and Do 2010), however, estimates of infinity are returned if populations are very large or if sampling error overwhelms the signal of genetic drift. Sites were excluded from analyses in these cases. We were able to estimate effective population size for 629 sites in 37 species.

135 We calculated population-specific F_{st} (Weir and Goudet 2017) using the raw genotypic data in Schmidt 136 et al. (2020a, 2020b). Population-specific F_{ST} estimates the extent of co-ancestry across all sites in each 137 species sample—not pairs of sites—and returns a relative, site-level estimate of how far each site has 138 diverged from the common ancestor of populations sampled at all sites. The MacroPopGen data set 139 contains F_{ST} estimates for more populations than the Schmidt et al. data set, but these estimates are 140 summaries of pairwise estimates of F_{ST} for genetic populations defined using a universal threshold that 141 was not suited to our analyses. MacroPopGen F_{sT} estimates are estimated with the extension of pairwise 142 F_{ST} for multiallelic markers like microsatellites (G_{ST} ; Nei 1973), and thus depend on the genetic diversity in the sampled populations. Estimates do not vary between 0 and 1, but have a maximum value of $1-H_s$ 143 144 (Charlesworth 1998; Hedrick 1999) where H_s is the mean heterozygosity of subpopulations. This means a 145 universal threshold is incompatible with our analyses because the genetic definition of a population and

our interpretation of F_{ST} will vary for each species. For this reason, we use the raw site-level data instead
 of regrouped populations based on an F_{ST} threshold, and recalculate a population-specific F_{ST} metric.
 Computing population-specific F_{ST} requires at least two sample sites, so we were unable to measure
 differentiation when the original genotype data were sampled at a single site. Population-specific F_{ST} was
 estimable for 785 sites in 31 species.

151 Population density. TetraDENSITY (Santini et al. 2018a, 2019) is a global database of >18,000 population 152 density estimates (individuals/km²) for terrestrial vertebrates. From this data set, we used density 153 estimates for 246 mammal species at 1058 sites in North and South America (Fig. S1). Given the nature 154 of this aggregated data set, species sampled at the same coordinate location sometimes had multiple 155 density estimates for different reasons, including long-term temporal studies with density estimates 156 across years, multiple methods used to estimate density, or estimates given for multiple localities within 157 sampling areas. These types of studies made up a minority (25%) of the overall data set, and most of the 158 data (88%) had a maximum of 2 density estimates for species per site. Records for different species 159 collected by different research groups were unevenly temporally sampled, making it impractical to 160 incorporate time into our models. As variation in population density due to temporal change or 161 methodology was not our focus here, we took the average density for species sampled at the same sites. 162 Moreover, sampling method was found to explain little of the variation in population density at broad 163 spatial and taxonomic scales in the TetraDENSITY data set (Santini et al. 2018b).

We checked the data to ensure there were no island sites, where frequent gene flow with continental populations would be unlikely. This was only the case for TetraDENSITY, and in total we excluded 5 sites that were in the Galapagos, the Caribbean, and Hawaii. We retained the Arctic Archipelago, which is continuous habitat for Arctic species such as polar bears, which were the most consistently sampled species in this region, due to the presence of sea ice. 169 *Biogeographic regions.* We focused on the biogeographic regions of continental North and South 170 America. We used biogeographic regions previously defined by Holt et al. (2013). Holt et al. produced 171 both phylogenetically-based and distribution-based biogeographic regions by clustering mammal species 172 assemblages (defined as the set of species co-occurring within a grid cell). We used the distribution-173 based maps produced for mammals (see Fig. S6C in Holt et al. 2013), which were generated following 174 procedures similar to those of Kreft and Jetz (2010). We used distribution-based maps because the 175 biogeographic boundaries generated with this approach reflect areas of relatively high overlap in the 176 range limits of multiple species, whereas using the phylogenetic approach, boundaries would reflect 177 regional transitions at higher taxonomic levels (genus, family, etc.). The distribution-based maps are 178 generated from the clustering of β sim (turnover) values among mammal assemblages, and are robust to 179 changes in data quality and completeness (Holt et al. 2013). In this data set North and South America 180 are comprised of eight biogeographic regions (Fig. S2).

181 The transition between biogeographic regions are areas where there is a detectable increase in species 182 turnover. Thus, boundary lines between regions are better thought of as the statistical mean point of a 183 transition from one region to the next, rather than a hard boundary containing entire species' ranges. 184 Sampling locations for species may therefore cross biogeographic region boundaries. The transitional 185 environments we are interested in occur on both sides of the lines we use as regional delineations. Thus 186 we did not restrict our sample to species fully bounded within biogeographic regions as we were 187 interested in characteristic demographic processes across regional transitions. We note that in our data, 188 most species were sampled in a single region (70% of species for genetic diversity, 65% for effective 189 population size, 61% for population differentiation, and 80% of species for population density; Fig. S5).

We calculated the geodesic distance (km) to the nearest biogeographic boundary using the dist2Line
function in the geosphere package v1.5.0 (Hijmans 2019). Geodesic distance is an accurate measure of

the shortest distance between two points along a curved surface. We computed geodesic distancesusing the default WGS84 ellipsoid.

194 Statistical Analysis

195 We tested whether distance to the nearest biogeographic boundary was correlated with effective 196 population size, genetic diversity, genetic differentiation, and population density using four Bayesian 197 generalized linear mixed models (GLMM) in the brms package (Bürkner 2019). We ran 4 GLMMs, each 198 with distance to biogeographic boundary as the independent variable, and one of the density or genetic 199 measures as response variables. These data have a hierarchical structure, with sample sites nested 200 within species. We incorporated this structure in our random effect terms. Random intercepts for 201 species account for variation in species' means for each response variable, and random slopes allow the 202 effect of distance to vary across species within the model. Here, species were treated as random 203 samples from a common distribution, so that we can interpret coefficient estimates as the general effect 204 of distance to boundary across all species. If the posterior distribution of the general effect of distance 205 falls entirely above or below zero, this indicates that species have similar positive or negative responses 206 to distance. In contrast, a posterior distribution that overlaps zero may indicate that many species have 207 no detectable response to distance (species-specific coefficient estimates are zero), or that different 208 species have strong positive and negative relationships with distance, generalizing to no overall effect. 209 To visualize results and distinguish between these possibilities, we extracted and plotted species-specific 210 coefficients from the fitted GLMMs. We ran all models with 4 chains with minimum 2000 iterations and 211 weakly informative normal priors on beta parameters with a mean of zero and standard deviation of 1. 212 We used default priors for other model parameters.

Because the nearest biogeographic region boundaries could be either interior region borders or
coastlines, we tested whether boundary type affected our results. We classified the nearest boundary

215 for each site as either coastal or interior (Figs. S3, S4). We then re-fit the models described above 216 including a fixed effect for boundary type with an interaction term allowing the effect of distance to vary 217 with boundary type. We included random slope terms for all fixed effects and interactions. Results from 218 models containing boundary type as an interaction term are presented in Table S1. 219 We tested model residuals for spatial autocorrelation with Moran tests (package spdep; Bivand et al. 220 2013). The population density model was the only model without significant spatial autocorrelation. We 221 re-ran models for effective population size, genetic diversity, and genetic differentiation using 222 simultaneous autoregressive (SAR) lag models implemented in brms to address spatial autocorrelation. 223 SAR lag models incorporate a spatial weights matrix to account for autocorrelation in the response 224 variable by estimating the strength of spatial dependencies among sites as an additional model 225

226

227 Results

parameter.

228 Our analyses included gene diversity estimates (Lawrence et al. 2019) from 147 mammal species 229 sampled at 1874 sites across North and South America after filtering, that had a mean of 0.65 ± 0.14 SD 230 (range: 0.04 – 0.94; Figs. 1, S6; Table S2). We used estimates of effective population size (Schmidt et al. 231 2020b) for 37 mammal species at 629 sites (median 66.00; 1.00 – 199578.00 individuals per population; 232 Figs. 1, S6; Table S2). For population differentiation (Schmidt et al. 2020b) we estimated population-233 specific F_{ST} for 31 species sampled from 785 sites across North America (mean 0.06 ± 0.08 SD; range: -234 0.05 – 0.72; Figs. 1, S63; Table S2). Finally, for population density (Santini et al. 2018a), we included 246 235 mammal species from 1058 sites (median 9.93; range 0.001 – 11900 individuals/km²; Figs. 1, S6; Table 236 S2).

237 Genetic diversity, effective population size, genetic differentiation, and population density were all 238 correlated with a sample site's distance from the nearest biogeographic boundary in our hierarchical 239 regression models (Fig 2; Table 1). In general, as distance from biogeographic boundaries increased, 240 effective population size and genetic diversity also increased, while genetic differentiation and 241 population density decreased (Fig. 2). In other words, genetic differentiation and population density 242 were higher near biogeographic boundaries, while effective population size and genetic diversity were 243 lower. Species-specific effects underlying the overall effects (shown in Fig. 2, Figs. S7-S9) trended in the 244 same directions, with no patterns that would suggest moderating effects of species traits or 245 phylogenetic relationships (Figs. S7-S9). Outlier species with strong effects were not consistent across 246 genetic or demographic metrics (Fig. 2). We found no evidence for an interaction between the effect of 247 distance and the type of biogeographic boundary (i.e., whether the nearest boundary was coastal or 248 interior) for genetic variables (Table S1), however there was an interactive effect for population density 249 (estimate = 0.12; 0.01 - 0.23 95% CI; Table S1, Fig. S10). The negative relationship between the nearest 250 distance to biogeographic boundary and population density was primarily associated with coastlines, 251 not interior boundaries (Fig. S10). In addition, the population density effect was not correlated with 252 effects for genetic variables (Figs. S11, S12). Population density does not appear to be generally related 253 to biogeographic region boundaries.

254

255 Discussion

We show that contemporary population demographics, reflected in neutral nuclear genetic diversity and differentiation, vary consistently among species depending on a population's proximity to biogeographic boundaries, whether internal or coastal. Genetic diversity, contemporary effective population size, and genetic differentiation each varied in ways that suggest that populations located closer to transitions between biogeographic regions may be less capable of adapting to the different environmental
 conditions in and beyond those transitional boundary environments (Fig. 2). Stronger genetic drift and
 reduced adaptive capacity near biogeographic region transitions thus appear to be an important factor
 in maintaining distinctive species assemblages between biogeographic regions.

264 The spatial organization of global biodiversity results from complex, interacting processes (e.g.,

historical, evolutionary, ecological) acting over time to shape the biogeographic patterns we observe

today (Pianka 1966; Brown 2014; Schemske and Mittelbach 2017; Lawrence and Fraser 2020). In

267 mammals, biogeographic boundaries are related to tectonic plate movements, and these boundaries are

associated with deeper divergences in the phylogenetic compositional similarity of mammal

assemblages across regions (Ficetola et al. 2017, 2021). Climatic and physical barriers such as mountains

270 have also influenced dispersal and population demography over long periods to shape regional species

assemblages (Ficetola et al. 2021). These historical and contemporary factors have created

biogeographic patterns that are, as our results suggest, in part maintained by local microevolutionary

273 processes limiting population adaptation and therefore spread. Differences in the composition of

274 species assemblages among biogeographic regions thus appear to be maintained by evolutionary limits

as predicted by theory (Eckert et al. 2008; Polechová 2018). These evolutionary limits are potentially

276 imposed by environmental factors that our results suggest limit population size and promote

277 differentiation in a consistent manner across hundreds of species at continental extents.

We used globally defined biogeographic regions for mammals and focused on North and South America (Holt et al. 2013). These regions describe general patterns of species turnover, and so are not expected to capture genetic and demographic patterns across all species. While we identified general genetic and demographic patterns associated with sample location, some species did not align with general trends (Fig. 2). For example, wolverines (*Gulo gulo*) and caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) had higher genetic diversity and effective population sizes, respectively, nearer transition zones, and American red squirrel 284 (Tamiasciurus hudsonicus) populations tended to be more differentiated towards region interiors. These 285 species highlight that there are clearly important species-specific factors that disrupt general patterns in 286 population size and genetic diversity across biogeographic regions (Fig. 2). Patterns of genetic diversity 287 and population demography across species ranges may differ based on demographic history (e.g., timing 288 and location of bottlenecks), thus outliers are expected and should depend on individual species and 289 population histories. Outlier species (labeled in Fig. 2) were sampled in one or two biogeographic 290 regions, suggesting that these large effect sizes were not consistently associated with species that had 291 previously expanded their range across biogeographic boundaries. Our goal was to describe general 292 patterns in population demography and genetics across the Americas in relation to biogeographic 293 regions, but future investigations at continental or more local scales (e.g., Morrone 2014) would permit 294 a more focused examination of the environmental or geographic features involved in generating these 295 patterns, albeit with fewer species.

296 We hypothesized that genetic diversity, effective population size, and population density should all 297 decrease near biogeographic boundaries. However, we found that population density tended to be higher nearer boundaries, though the effect was small relative to genetic metrics, and species-level 298 299 coefficient estimates were spread across positive and negative values (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the 300 interaction term in our models suggested this effect was driven primarily by distance to the coast (Figs. 301 2, S10; Table S1). This suggests that processes unrelated to biogeographic transition zones underlie this 302 relationship. That patterns of genetic diversity, effective population size, and population differentiation 303 were unaffected by whether boundaries were coastal or interior suggests that environmental 304 heterogeneity and associated effects on population size and gene flow could explain the general 305 patterns we find across biogeographic regions.

Transitional areas between biogeographic regions are often considered conservation priorities because
 of their high biodiversity (Smith et al. 2001; Spector 2002; Kark et al. 2007). Environmental transition

308 zones and ecotones more generally are sometimes thought of as speciation pumps, where 309 environmental variation and barriers to gene flow create interesting evolutionary arenas with high 310 potential for isolation, differentiation, and speciation (Schilthuizen 2000; Doebeli and Dieckmann 2003). 311 One idea in conservation biogeography is that locally adapted populations occupying transition zones 312 may be better equipped to withstand environmental change because they are already adapted to new 313 environments that differ from regional cores (Smith et al. 2001; Spector 2002; Whittaker et al. 2005). 314 From this perspective, transitional areas between biogeographic regions would be of high conservation 315 value due to their combination of high species richness, phylogenetic diversity, and populations of 316 genetic significance. However, our findings suggest that prioritizing the regional conservation of 317 transition zones over more central locations may run counter to policies intending to maximize genetic 318 diversity and species' long-term evolutionary potential (Hoban et al. 2020). There will be trade-offs 319 when conserving regions for biodiversity at genetic and species levels. Indeed, spatial correlations 320 between species richness and genetic diversity in general are not straightforward (Kahilainen et al. 2014; 321 Laroche et al. 2015) and these two levels of biodiversity tend to be negatively correlated in 322 heterogeneous environments (Schmidt et al. 2022). 323 Through their effects on local population demography, environmental factors appear to set general 324 evolutionary limits that contribute to biogeographic patterns at continental scales. Consistent with 325 existing theory (Polechová and Barton 2015; Polechová 2018; Bridle et al. 2019), our results suggest that 326 population demography interacts with environmental transitions in ways that limit population 327 expansion across environmental gradients. Our macrogenetic (Blanchet et al. 2017; Leigh et al. 2021) 328 work adds a bottom-up perspective (i.e., starting at the population-level) to the exploration of 329 biogeographic region formation that has to date been lacking. Population-level microevolutionary 330 processes appear to shape contemporary biodiversity patterns associated with biogeographic regions.

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344 Author contributions

All authors contributed significantly to question development and study design. CS curated data and performed the analyses with input from CJG and JPL. CS and CJG wrote the first draft of the manuscript and all authors contributed substantially to revisions.

348 Data accessibility

- All data is already in the public domain and sources are cited in the references. Data and code to
- 350 reproduce analyses are available on FigShare
- 351 (https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Data_from_Population_demography_maintains_biogeographic_
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486 **Table 1.** Model summaries for the effect of distance to the nearest biogeographic boundary on genetic

487 and demographic parameters. Effect sizes are given with 95% credible intervals (CI). Rho (ρ) is the

488 coefficient of spatial autocorrelation (for simultaneous autoregressive models only), also presented with

489 95% credible intervals. Standard deviations (σ) with 95% CIs are given for species random effect

490 intercepts and slopes.

variable (# sites, # species)	distance to boundary	ρ	Gintercept	G slope
effective population size (629, 37)	0.14 (-0.01 – 0.30)	0.16 (0.06 – 0.25)	0.42 (0.27 – 0.61)	0.25 (0.10 – 0.44)
genetic diversity (1874, 147)	0.18 (0.10 – 0.26)	0.17 (0.13 – 0.21)	0.93 (0.81 – 1.06)	0.25 (0.17 – 0.34)
genetic differentiation (785, 31)	-0.23 (-0.45 – -0.02)	0.14 (0.06 – 0.22)	0.49 (0.36 – 0.67)	0.45 (0.29 – 0.69)
population density (1058, 246)	-0.07 (-0.13 – -0.01)	-	0.88 (0.8 – 0.97)	0.18 (0.12 – 0.25)

491



494 **Figure 1.** Continental maps show the locations of sites used in this study (A: effective population size

495 and genetic differentiation (F_{ST}) estimates from Schmidt et al. data compiled from raw genotypes; B:

496 MacroPopGen genetic diversity (H_e) estimates; C: TetraDENSITY population density records). One

497 species was sampled at each site. Inset maps show site level values of genetic and demographic

498 variables for select species. The size of points denotes site distance from the nearest biogeographic

499 region boundary.



501 **Figure 2.** Model coefficients for the effect of distance from biogeographic boundary on population

502 biodiversity variables. Open circles are global coefficient estimates; narrow and thick bars represent 95%

and 90% credible intervals respectively. Pale points are the species-specific coefficient estimates that

underlie the global estimate, and their diameter denotes the number of sample sites included for that

505 species. Effective population size and genetic diversity increase moving away from region boundaries

506 while genetic differentiation and population density are higher closer to boundaries. Select species at

507 the tails of the distributions of species-specific effects are shown.

509	Supplementary information for: Population demography maintains biogeographic boundaries
510 511	Chloé Schmidt, Gabriel Muñoz, Lesley T. Lancaster, JP Lessard, Katharine A. Marske, Katie E. Marshall, Colin J. Garroway
512	
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Figure S1. Maps of raw values for population-level biodiversity variables.



Figure S2. Biogeographic regions of mammals in North and South America (from Holt et al. 2013)

Genetic diversity

Population density



537

- 538 Figure S3. Maps showing whether sample site was nearer to a coastline (black) or interior biogeographic
- 539 boundary (yellow).



Figure S4. Boxplots comparing distributions in distance to edge values for coastal versus internal
biogeographic region boundaries. There were no strong differences in distance across different
boundary types.



Figure S5. Histograms showing the counts of species with sample sites located in one or multiple
regions. Most species were sampled in a single region for all variables (70% of species for genetic
diversity, 65% for effective population size, 61% for population differentiation, and 80% of species for

550 population density).



Figure S6. Scatterplots of raw data. Distance to edge (km), effective population size (individuals), and 554 population density (individuals/km²) are log transformed. Points are colored by species.



Figure S7. Species-level effects of distance to nearest biogeographic boundary on genetic diversity. Thin and thick bars are 95% and 90% credible intervals, respectively.



Figure S8. Species-level effects of distance to nearest biogeographic boundary on genetic differentiation. Thin and thick bars are 95% and 90% credible intervals, respectively.



Figure S9. Species-level effects of distance to nearest biogeographic boundary on population density. Thin and thick bars are 95% and 90% credible intervals, respectively.



- 1 Figure S10. Interaction effect of the type of biogeographic boundary (coastal or interior) on the
- 2 relationship between the distance to nearest boundary and mammal population genetics and
- 3 demography. Note all variables were scaled and centered in our models to make effects comparable,
- 4 and these transformed values are presented here. Effects were only significantly different for population
- 5 density (d), where increasing population density nearer to boundaries appears to be driven by
- 6 coastlines.







10 density vs. genetic diversity, effective population size, and genetic differentiation for matching species

11 across datasets. Points are species-specific coefficient estimates, purple lines represent 95% credible

12 intervals for population density coefficient estimates, dashed grey lines are 95% credible intervals for

13 the coefficient of the genetic variable on the y axis. Dark lines highlight β = 0 for both axes. Effect sizes

14 for population density are unrelated to effect sizes for genetic variables.





17 Figure S12. Relationships between species' distance to region edge effect sizes (β) for genetic diversity,

18 effective population size, and genetic differentiation for matching species across datasets. Points are

19 species-specific coefficient estimates, purple lines are 95% credible intervals for x-axis variables, and

20 dashed grey lines are 95% credible intervals for y-axis variables. Dark lines highlight β = 0 for both axes.

21 *Top*: Coefficient estimates for effective population size and genetic diversity are weakly positively

22 related. *Bottom*: Coefficient estimates for effective population size and genetic diversity are weakly

23 negatively related to coefficients for genetic differentiation.

- 25 **Table S1.** Effect sizes and 95% credible intervals of models accounting for boundary type (coastal vs
- 26 interior). There was no interaction between boundary type and distance (boundary type*distance) for
- 27 any genetic variable and a weak effect for population density, indicating that the effect of distance only
- 28 depended on boundary type for population density. The effect of distance on population density was
- 29 more strongly associated with coastlines (see Fig. S8).
- 30

variable	boundary type * distance	distance to boundary	boundary type: interior
effective population size	0.08 (-0.23 – 0.38)	0.11 (-0.03 – 0.26)	0.01 (-0.23 – 0.38)
genetic diversity	-0.09 (-0.24 – 0.05)	0.20 (0.10 – 0.29)	0.10 (0.01 – 0.18)
genetic differentiation	0.32 (-0.11 – 0.71)	-0.27 (-0.60 – 0.06)	-0.17 (-0.46 – 0.10)
population density	0.12 (0.01 – 0.23)	-0.12 (-0.20 – -0.04)	-0.05 (-0.18 – 0.08)

33 **Table S2.** List of species included in analyses and the number of sites per species in each dataset. We

34 used gene diversity estimates from MacroPopGen (Lawrence et al. 2019). Numbers of sites are given

35 separately for effective population size (N_e) and population differentiation (F_{ST}) data from Schmidt et al.

36 (Schmidt et al. 2020). Population density estimates are from the TetraDENSITY database (Santini et al.

37 2018).

Order	Species	MacroPopGen	Schmidt et al. (N _e)	Schmidt et al. (Fst)	TetraDENSITY
Artiodactyla	Blastocerus dichotomus	1	0	0	3
Artiodactyla	Tayassu pecari	5	0	0	5
Artiodactyla	Vicugna pacos	5	0	0	0
Artiodactyla	Oreamnos americanus	24	1	0	0
Artiodactyla	Ovis canadensis	75	16	14	0
Artiodactyla	Ovibos moschatus	3	0	0	11
Artiodactyla	Hippocamelus bisulcus	1	0	0	9
Artiodactyla	Mazama americana	0	0	0	1
Artiodactyla	Catagonus wagneri	0	0	0	1
Artiodactyla	Mazama gouazoupira	0	0	0	1
Artiodactyla	Ozotoceros bezoarticus	0	0	0	2
Artiodactyla	Inia geoffrensis	2	0	0	0
Artiodactyla	Sus scrofa	0	0	0	7
Artiodactyla	Pecari tajacu	3	0	0	13
Artiodactyla	Lama guanicoe	24	0	0	1
Artiodactyla	Vicugna vicugna	16	0	0	0
Artiodactyla	Alces alces/Alces americanus	40	0	2	39
Artiodactyla	Cervus elaphus	0	0	0	3
Artiodactyla	Rangifer tarandus	151	68	82	22
Artiodactyla	Odocoileus hemionus	74	54	66	0
Artiodactyla	Odocoileus virginianus	67	43	64	9
Artiodactyla	Antilocapra americana	0	1	0	0
Artiodactyla	Bison bison	23	7	8	1
Artiodactyla	Ovis dalli	24	0	0	3
Carnivora	Puma yagouaroundi	1	0	0	0
Carnivora	Eira barbara	0	0	0	1
Carnivora	Ursus maritimus	14	31	35	0
Carnivora	Mephitis mephitis	5	1	0	0
Carnivora	Spilogale gracilis	8	0	0	0
Carnivora	Taxidea taxus	6	11	11	1
Carnivora	Leopardus pardalis	11	2	2	11
Carnivora	Nasua narica	2	0	0	1
Carnivora	Lycalopex fulvipes	2	0	0	0
Carnivora	Lycalopex gymnocercus	2	0	0	0
Carnivora	Neogale vison	3	0	0	0
Carnivora	Gulo gulo	29	0	0	0
Carnivora	Vulpes lagopus	1	2	3	0
Carnivora	Lynx canadensis	11	30	33	1

Carnivora	Lynx rufus	77	48	65	0
Carnivora	Leopardus guigna	1	0	0	0
Carnivora	Chrysocyon brachyurus	19	0	0	0
Carnivora	Lycalopex vetulus	11	0	0	0
Carnivora	Speothos venaticus	2	0	0	1
Carnivora	Lontra longicaudis	4	0	0	0
Carnivora	Lontra canadensis	44	0	0	0
Carnivora	Pekania pennanti	35	32	34	0
Carnivora	Pekania pennanti	35	32	34	0
Carnivora	Mustela nigripes	3	0	0	0
Carnivora	Canis lupus	36	1	0	52
Carnivora	Canis latrans	6	24	41	1
Carnivora	Cerdocyon thous	9	0	0	1
Carnivora	Vulpes vulpes	5	16	16	0
Carnivora	Vulpes macrotis	8	0	0	0
Carnivora	Vulpes velox	17	0	0	0
Carnivora	Tremarctos ornatus	3	0	0	0
Carnivora	Ursus americanus	46	35	41	4
Carnivora	Ursus arctos	37	19	18	14
Carnivora	Nasua nasua	0	0	0	3
Carnivora	Procyon lotor	27	1	0	3
Carnivora	Martes americana	45	25	29	0
Carnivora	Pteronura brasiliensis	4	0	0	0
Carnivora	Panthera onca	41	0	0	8
Carnivora	Puma concolor	107	13	12	2
Chiroptera	Aeorestes cinereus	0	1	0	0
Chiroptera	Myotis septentrionalis	0	11	15	0
Chiroptera	Lasionycteris noctivagans	0	1	0	0
Chiroptera	Myotis lucifugus	0	34	65	0
Cingulata	Euphractus sexcinctus	0	0	0	1
Cingulata	Priodontes maximus	0	0	0	1
Cingulata	Chaetophractus villosus	0	0	0	1
Cingulata	Dasypus novemcinctus	7	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Marmosops fuscatus	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Thylamys elegans	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Monodelphis brevicaudata	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Tlacuatzin canescens	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Marmosa paraguayana	7	0	0	0
Didelphimorphia	Marmosa demerarae	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Metachirus nudicaudatus	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Caluromys philander	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Didelphis aurita	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Marmosa robinsoni	0	0	0	1
Didelphimorphia	Didelphis virginiana	11	0	0	2

Didelphimorphia	Didelphis marsupialis	0	0	0	3
Didelphimorphia	Philander opossum	0	0	0	2
Eulipotyphla	Sorex cinereus	0	0	0	1
Eulipotyphla	Sorex arcticus	0	0	0	1
Eulipotyphla	Blarina brevicauda	0	0	0	1
Lagomorpha	Ochotona collaris	0	0	0	1
Lagomorpha	Sylvilagus audubonii	2	0	0	0
Lagomorpha	Brachylagus idahoensis	4	0	0	0
Lagomorpha	Lepus americanus	42	30	39	1
Lagomorpha	Sylvilagus aquaticus	0	0	0	1
Lagomorpha	Sylvilagus transitionalis	0	2	3	0
Lagomorpha	Ochotona princeps	10	0	0	2
Lagomorpha	Lepus europaeus	0	0	0	1
Lagomorpha	Oryctolagus cuniculus	0	0	0	1
Lagomorpha	Sylvilagus floridanus	0	0	0	2
Perissodactyla	Tapirus pinchaque	0	0	0	1
Perissodactyla	Tapirus bairdii	2	0	0	4
Perissodactyla	Tapirus terrestris	1	0	0	2
Pilosa	Tamandua tetradactyla	0	0	0	1
Pilosa	Myrmecophaga tridactyla	2	0	0	2
Pilosa	Cyclopes didactylus	0	0	0	1
Pilosa	Tamandua mexicana	0	0	0	1
Pilosa	Bradypus variegatus	0	0	0	1
Primates	Sapajus libidinosus	0	0	0	9
Primates	Ateles chamek	0	0	0	18
Primates	Alouatta sara	0	0	0	3
Primates	Callicebus dubius	0	0	0	3
Primates	Callithrix flaviceps	0	0	0	4
Primates	Cheracebus purinus	0	0	0	7
Primates	Sapajus xanthosternos	0	0	0	1
Primates	Plecturocebus brunneus	0	0	0	1
Primates	Alouatta pigra	2	0	0	16
Primates	Alouatta guariba	0	0	0	14
Primates	Callicebus ornatus	0	0	0	1
Primates	Alouatta macconnelli	0	0	0	5
Primates	Chiropotes albinasus	0	0	0	1
Primates	Plecturocebus cupreus	0	0	0	20
Primates	Cheracebus lugens	0	0	0	1
Primates	Mico intermedius	0	0	0	1
Primates	Saimiri boliviensis	0	0	0	23
Primates	Chiropotes utahickae	0	0	0	5
Primates	Pithecia aequatorialis	1	0	0	0
Primates	Plecturocebus discolor	1	0	0	4
Primates	Saguinus leucopus	2	0	0	2
	•				

Primates	Saguinus midas	0	0	0	3
Primates	Leontopithecus rosalia	5	0	0	7
Primates	Alouatta palliata	4	0	0	14
Primates	Alouatta belzebul	4	0	0	8
Primates	Aotus azarai	0	0	0	4
Primates	Cheracebus torquatus	0	0	0	3
Primates	Brachyteles arachnoides	0	0	0	2
Primates	Cacajao calvus	0	0	0	7
Primates	Pithecia irrorata	0	0	0	10
Primates	Brachyteles hypoxanthus	0	0	0	4
Primates	Saguinus niger	0	0	0	4
Primates	Aotus nancymaae	0	0	0	10
Primates	Cebus olivaceus	0	0	0	4
Primates	Saguinus bicolor	4	0	0	0
Primates	Aotus lemurinus	0	0	0	1
Primates	Pithecia pithecia	0	0	0	3
Primates	Saguinus geoffroyi	3	0	0	21
Primates	Callithrix geoffroyi	0	0	0	7
Primates	Aotus nigriceps	0	0	0	7
Primates	Aotus vociferans	0	0	0	8
Primates	Leontopithecus chrysomelas	0	0	0	2
Primates	Callithrix aurita	0	0	0	3
Primates	Callithrix penicillata	1	0	0	5
Primates	Leontopithecus chrysopygus	0	0	0	5
Primates	Pithecia monachus	0	0	0	17
Primates	Chiropotes chiropotes	0	0	0	1
Primates	Callicebus personatus	0	0	0	7
Primates	Cacajao melanocephalus	0	0	0	2
Primates	Saimiri oerstedii	0	0	0	2
Primates	Lagothrix lugens	0	0	0	2
Primates	Lagothrix poeppigii	1	0	0	6
Primates	Lagothrix cana	0	0	0	10
Primates	Saguinus labiatus	0	0	0	3
Primates	Callicebus nigrifrons	0	0	0	3
Primates	Callithrix kuhlii	0	0	0	1
Primates	Sapajus nigritus	1	0	0	18
Primates	Sapajus nigritus	1	0	0	18
Primates	Saguinus melanoleucus	0	0	0	3
Primates	Mico argentatus	0	0	0	3
Primates	Callithrix jacchus	3	0	0	1
Primates	Leontocebus fuscicollis	0	0	0	38
Primates	Saguinus mystax	1	0	0	19
Primates	Saguinus oedipus	0	0	0	1
Primates	Saguinus imperator	0	0	0	7
	5 ,				

Primates	Cebuella pygmaea	4	0	0	9
Primates	Callimico goeldii	0	0	0	2
Primates	Alouatta caraya	3	0	0	12
Primates	Alouatta seniculus	1	0	0	30
Primates	Ateles belzebuth	0	0	0	4
Primates	Ateles geoffroyi	0	0	0	10
Primates	Ateles paniscus	0	0	0	3
Primates	Cebus albifrons	0	0	0	32
Primates	Sapajus apella	0	0	0	47
Primates	Cebus capucinus	0	0	0	5
Primates	Lagothrix lagotricha	0	0	0	5
Primates	Saimiri sciureus	2	0	0	19
Primates	Plecturocebus moloch	1	0	0	0
Primates	Chiropotes satanas	0	0	0	7
Primates	Pithecia albicans	0	0	0	6
Primates	Leontopithecus caissara	2	0	0	1
Primates	Saguinus nigricollis	0	0	0	2
Primates	Saguinus pileatus	0	0	0	1
Primates	Callicebus lucifer	0	0	0	2
Primates	Callicebus melanochir	0	0	0	3
Primates	Callicebus pallescens	0	0	0	1
Primates	Callicebus regulus	0	0	0	4
Rodentia	Tamiasciurus hudsonicus	3	4	12	1
Rodentia	Thomomys bottae	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Dipodomys ordii	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Peromyscus leucopus	35	32	36	3
Rodentia	Peromyscus maniculatus	16	10	9	8
Rodentia	Ondatra zibethicus	31	0	0	0
Rodentia	Bolomys urichi	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Microtus californicus	23	0	0	1
Rodentia	Mus musculus	15	0	0	0
Rodentia	Rattus norvegicus	20	0	0	0
Rodentia	Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris	2	0	0	2
Rodentia	Octodon degus	1	0	0	2
Rodentia	Proechimys guairae	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Dipodomys ingens	5	0	0	0
Rodentia	Neotoma mexicana	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Neotoma micropus	1	0	0	1
Rodentia	Neotoma fuscipes	4	0	0	0
Rodentia	Dipodomys spectabilis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Dipodomys nelsoni	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Microdipodops megacephalus	0	3	3	0
Rodentia	Cuniculus paca	0	0	0	4
Rodentia	Abrocoma bennettii	0	0	0	2

Rodentia	Microtus miurus	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Tamias cinereicollis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Tamias ruficaudus	29	0	0	0
Rodentia	Tamias townsendii	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Tamias umbrinus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Proechimys semispinosus	0	0	0	5
Rodentia	Proechimys guyannensis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Reithrodontomys raviventris	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Sigmodon alstoni	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Sciurus deppei	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Oligoryzomys longicaudatus	1	0	0	1
Rodentia	Tamiasciurus douglasii	0	11	14	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus crinitus	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Chaetodipus baileyi	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Chaetodipus nelsoni	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Handleyomys melanotis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Dasyprocta azarae	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Zygodontomys brevicauda	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Oryzomys couesi	4	0	0	1
Rodentia	Zapus hudsonius	12	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys australis	3	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys magellanicus	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Clyomys laticeps	1	0	0	0
Rodentia	Neacomys tenuipes	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Oecomys concolor	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Syntheosciurus granatensis	0	0	0	5
Rodentia	Neotomodon alstoni	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus keeni	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Geomys bursarius	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Dipodomys deserti	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Abrothrix longipilis	0	0	0	3
Rodentia	Abrothrix olivaceus	0	0	0	3
Rodentia	Nectomys squamipes	15	0	0	0
Rodentia	Reithrodontomys spectabilis	4	0	0	0
Rodentia	Reithrodontomys chrysopsis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus perfulvus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Heteromys pictus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Microdipodops pallidus	0	2	2	0
Rodentia	Geomys breviceps	4	0	0	1
Rodentia	Ctenomys porteousi	8	0	0	0
Rodentia	Heteromys anomalus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Chinchilla lanigera	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	- Dasyprocta punctata	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Otospermophilus beecheyi	3	3	3	0
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Rodentia	Neotoma macrotis	1	0	0	0
Rodentia	Thomomys talpoides	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Oryzomys palustris	3	0	0	1
Rodentia	Osgoodomys banderanus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Perognathus flavus	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Cavia aperea	1	0	0	0
Rodentia	Urocitellus richardsonii	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Perognathus inornatus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Perognathus parvus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Chaetodipus penicillatus	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Onychomys torridus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Perognathus fasciatus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Neotoma bryanti	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Habromys simulatus	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Dasyprocta leporina	0	0	0	3
Rodentia	Neotoma albigula	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Neotoma floridana	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus eremicus	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Peromyscus gossypinus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus melanotis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Sigmodon hispidus	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Peromyscus californicus	0	0	0	3
Rodentia	Trinomys iheringi	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Myoprocta pratti	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Ctenomys sociabilis	1	0	0	0
Rodentia	Reithrodontomys megalotis	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Tamias minimus	4	0	0	1
Rodentia	Xerospermophilus spilosoma	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Tamias striatus	41	0	0	1
Rodentia	Cynomys gunnisoni	3	0	0	0
Rodentia	Cynomys Iudovicianus	20	0	0	0
Rodentia	Glaucomys sabrinus	19	0	0	1
Rodentia	Myodes gapperi	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Oecomys bicolor	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Tamias alpinus	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Thomomys mazama	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Castor canadensis	9	0	0	0
Rodentia	Hesperosciurus griseus	0	0	0	3
Rodentia	Urocitellus brunneus	25	0	0	0
Rodentia	Myodes rutilus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Ctenomys talarum	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Calomys musculinus	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Reithrodontomys fulvescens	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Neotoma lepida	0	0	0	1

Rodentia	Phyllotis darwini	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Phenacomys intermedius	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus boylii	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus aztecus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus polionotus	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys haigi	1	0	0	0
Rodentia	Spalacopus cyanus	1	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys dorbignyi	4	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys roigi	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys sp.	14	0	0	0
Rodentia	Tamias amoenus	8	0	0	1
Rodentia	Glaucomys volans	2	4	8	0
Rodentia	Geomys attwateri	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Callospermophilus lateralis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Lemmus trimucronatus	4	0	0	0
Rodentia	Dicrostonyx groenlandicus	6	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys minutus	20	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys perrensi	3	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys flamarioni	3	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys pearsoni	2	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys rionegrensis	8	0	0	0
Rodentia	Ctenomys torquatus	4	0	0	0
Rodentia	Hylaeamys megacephalus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Peromyscus truei	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Rhipidomys mastacalis	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Marmota flaviventris	10	0	0	0
Rodentia	Marmota vancouverensis	3	0	0	0
Rodentia	Dipodomys merriami	0	0	0	2
Rodentia	Zapus trinotatus	9	0	0	0
Rodentia	Cynomys leucurus	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Cynomys parvidens	11	0	0	0
Rodentia	Xerospermophilus mohavensis	13	0	0	0
Rodentia	Xerospermophilus perotensis	3	0	0	0
Rodentia	Urocitellus parryii	0	0	0	1
Rodentia	Xerospermophilus polionotus	1	0	0	0
Rodentia	Sorex oreopolus	0	0	0	1
Sirenia	Trichechus inunguis	2	0	0	0
Sirenia	Trichechus manatus	7	0	0	0