

SURFACE AREA IS RELATED TO SPECIES RICHNESS ACROSS *CENTROBOLUS* COOK, 1897

MARK IAN COOPER
UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA.

Abstract- In this paper, I test for a relationship between surface area and species richness in red millipedes *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897. Surface area was negatively related to species richness ($r=-0.62$, Z score= -4.19 , $n=37$, $p<0.01$) ($y=-0.00711055x + 26.2$); across species ($r=-0.55$, Z score= -2.70 , $n=22$, $p<0.01$) ($y=-0.00886731x + 29.3$) and females ($r=-0.55$, Z score= -2.70 , $n=22$, $p<0.01$) ($y=-0.00484857x + 22.8$). The mean species surface area at high species richness was 1804 mm^2 (S.D.= 203 mm^2). The mean female surface area at high species richness was 1961 mm^2 (S.D.= 371 mm^2). Female surface area at high species richness was very different from species surface area at high species richness ($t=4.09$, $n=19$, $p<0.01$). Female surface area at low species richness was not significantly different from species surface area at low species richness ($t=-2.57$, $n=3$, $p=0.12$). The mean female surface area at low species richness was $2741.6811207 \text{ mm}^2$ (S.D.= $619.56066078139 \text{ mm}^2$) was significantly different from the female surface area at high species richness ($t=-3.116$, $n=19$, $p=0.0054$). The mean species surface area at low species richness was 2509.916172 mm^2 (S.D.= 338.96352202721) was not significantly different from the specific surface area at high species richness ($t=-3.5111$, $n=3$, $p=0.06162$).

I. INTRODUCTION

The red millipede genus *Centrobolus* is well known for studies on sexual size dimorphism (SSD) and displays prolonged copulation durations for pairs of individuals of all species [4-9, 20-86]. *Centrobolus* is distributed in temperate southern Africa with northern limits on the east coast of southern Africa at -17° latitude South (S) and southern limits at -35° latitude S. It consists of taxonomically important species with 12 species considered threatened and includes nine vulnerable and three endangered species [89]. It occurs in all the forests of the coastal belt from the Cape Peninsula to Beira in Mozambique [88]. Spirobolida has two pairs of legs modified into gonopods on the eighth and ninth diplosegments [90]. In *Centrobolus* the coleopods are the anterior gonopods of leg-pair eight and can be classed as paragonopods or peltogonopods because they are fused into a single plate-like structure and play a subsidiary role as inseminating devices while leg-pair nine are sperm-transferring [1]. The sternites (or stigma-carrying plates [92]) prevent lateral shifting (stabilizer) and stretch the vulva sac in a medial plane [3]. They facilitate insemination during

prolonged size-selected copulations [2, 19, 93]. From the results, correlations between species richness and surface area were checked.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two morphometric parameters were used to obtain measurements, length and width, both of which were obtained from the published literature [18, 88, 94]. Surface areas (mm^2) were calculated based on the formula for the same cylinder $SA = 2\pi r(r+h)$ in 22 *Centrobolus* species. The 22 species of millipedes were given SSD. The 22 species were morphologically separated based on the distinct morphological characters. Surface areas were equated against SSD and SSD were substituted into the equation for the SSD relationship to surface area in females ($y = 846.83487449 \cdot x + 802.42925798$) and the equation for SSD relationship to surface areas when males and female data were pooled ($y = 463.30593540 \cdot x + 1,170.96201833$). Equations were solved at <https://www.mathpapa.com/equation-solver/>. Surface area data were tested for normality at <https://www.statskingdom.com/kolmogorov-smirnov-test-calculator.html>.

III. RESULTS

Female and female and male (species) surface areas for low and high species richness were calculated (Appendix 1 & 2). Surface area was negatively related to species richness (Figure 1: $r=-0.61573870$, Z score= -4.18727869 , $n=37$, $p=0.00001412$) ($y=-0.00711055x + 26.18488137$); across species (Figure 2: $r=-0.55126786$, Z score= -2.70339286 , $n=22$, $p=0.00343183$) ($y=-0.00886731 \cdot x + 29.30599652$) and females (Figure 3: $r=-0.55019591$, Z score= -2.69668617 , $n=22$, $p=0.00350171$) ($y=-0.00484857x + 22.82072887$). The mean species surface area at high species richness was $1803.5385615 \text{ mm}^2$ (S.D.= 203.369 mm^2). The mean female surface area

at high species richness was 1961.2559284^2 (S.D.= 371.43215mm^2). The mean species surface area at low species richness was 2509.916172mm^2 (S.D.= 338.96352202721) was not significantly different from the specific surface area at high species richness ($t=-3.5111$, $n=3$, $p=0.06162$). The mean female surface area at low species richness was 2741.6811207mm^2 (S.D.= $619.56066078139\text{mm}^2$) was significantly different from the female surface area at high species richness ($t=-3.116$, $n=19$, $p=0.0054$). Female surface area at high species richness was significantly different from species surface area at high species richness ($t=4.0855$, $n=19$, $p=0.006943$). Female surface area at low species richness was not significantly different from species surface area at low species richness ($t=-2.5691$, $n=3$, $p=0.124$). Female surface areas for low species richness were normally distributed ($D=0.351$, $n=3$, $p=0.1523$). Species surface areas for low species richness were normally distributed ($D=0.351$, $n=3$, $p=0.1523$). Female surface areas for high species richness were normally distributed ($D=0.1151$, $n=19$, $p=0.7258$). Species surface areas for high species richness were normally distributed ($D=0.1456$, $n=19$, $p=0.36$).

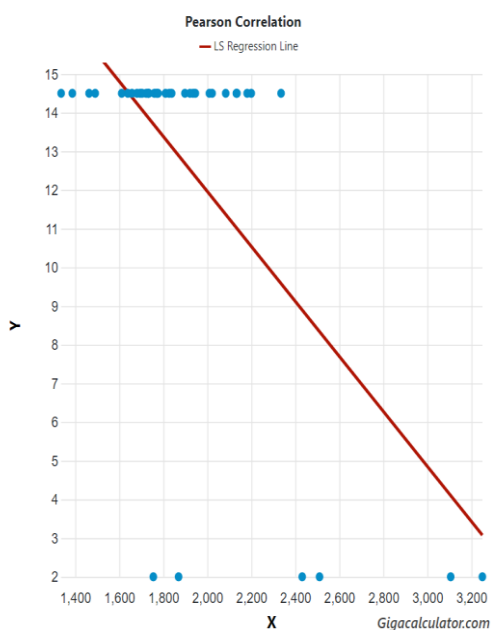


Figure 1. Relationship between species richness and surface area in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

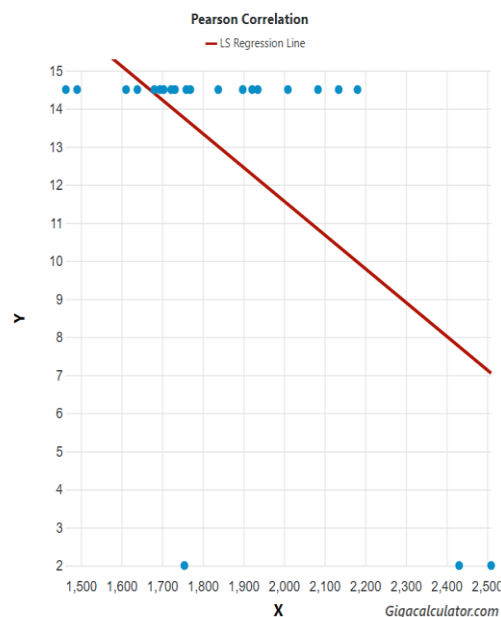


Figure 2. Relationship between species richness and surface area in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897 species.

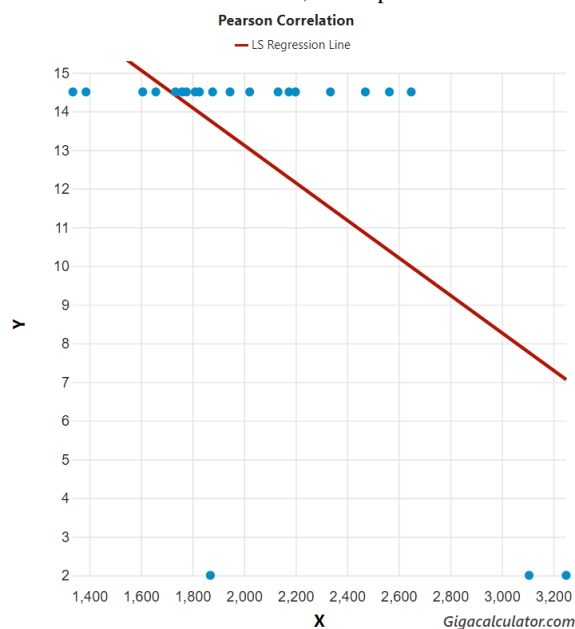


Figure 3. Relationship between species richness and surface area in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897 females.

IV. DISCUSSION

New relationships between species richness and surface areas are documented here in both females and species in the genus of red millipedes *Centrobolus*. The surface area was negatively related to species richness across species and females. Mean surface areas were estimated from SSD-surface area equations at low and high species

richness. The mean species surface area at high species richness was $1803.5385615 \text{ mm}^2$ (S.D.= 203.369mm^2) while the mean female surface area at high species richness was 1961.2559284^2 (S.D.= 371.43215mm^2). The mean species surface area at low species richness was 2509.916172 mm^2 (S.D.= 338.96352202721). Mean female surface area at high species richness was significantly different to species surface area at high species richness but the female surface area at low species richness was not very different to species surface area at low species richness. This emphasizes the importance of female surface area-species relationships in this genus. A difference of -780.425 mm^2 was found between female surface areas at low versus high species richness.

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Appendix 1. Surface areas (mm²) for females and species in *Centrobolus* at low species richness.

SPECIES	FEMALE SA	SPECIES SA
<i>C. albitarsus</i>	3249.782045	2509.916172
<i>C. immacululatus</i>	3105.820117	2431.154163
<i>C. transvaalicus</i>	1869.4412	1754.727497

Appendix 2. Surface areas (mm²) for females and species in *Centrobolus* at high species richness.

SPECIES	FEMALE SA	SPECIES SA
<i>C. anulatus</i>	1810.162759	1722.296081
<i>C. decoratus</i>	1335.935229	1462.844758
<i>C. digrammus</i>	1657.732481	1638.901013
<i>C. dubius</i>	1945.656339	1769.425031
<i>C. fulgidus</i>	2199.706801	1935.416812
<i>C. inscriptus</i>	1827.099456	1731.5622
<i>C. inyanganus</i>	2021.871477	1838.122565
<i>C. lawrencei</i>	2131.960011	1898.352337
<i>C. lugubris</i>	2648.529284	2180.968958
<i>C. promontorius</i>	1386.745321	1490.643114
<i>C. pusillus</i>	2563.845797	2134.638364
<i>C. richardii</i>	1606.922389	1611.102657
<i>C. ruber</i>	2174.301755	1921.517634
<i>C. rugulosus</i>	2470.693961	2083.674711
<i>C. sagatinus</i>	1877.909549	1759.360556
<i>C. silvanus</i>	1759.352666	1694.497725

<i>C. titanophilus</i>	1776.289364	1703.763844
<i>C. tricolor</i>	1733.94762	1680.598547
<i>C. vastus</i>	2335.200381	2009.545761