

Supporting Information B from:
Data- and code-archiving in the British Ecological Society journals: present status and recommendations for future improvements.

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Supplementary Figures

Results figures separated by journal

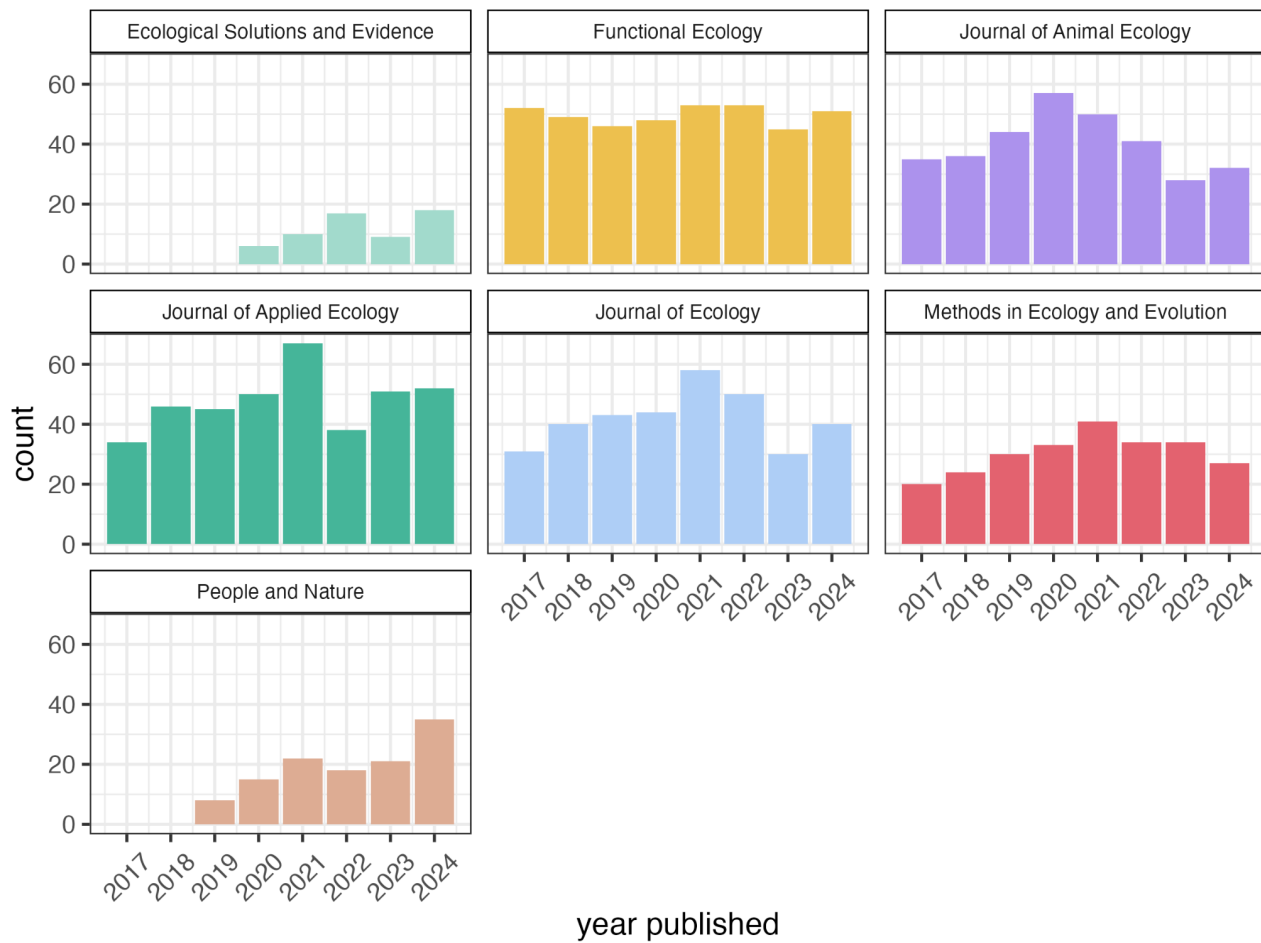


Figure S1: Numbers of papers published each year in each of the seven BES journals present in our final dataset.

Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

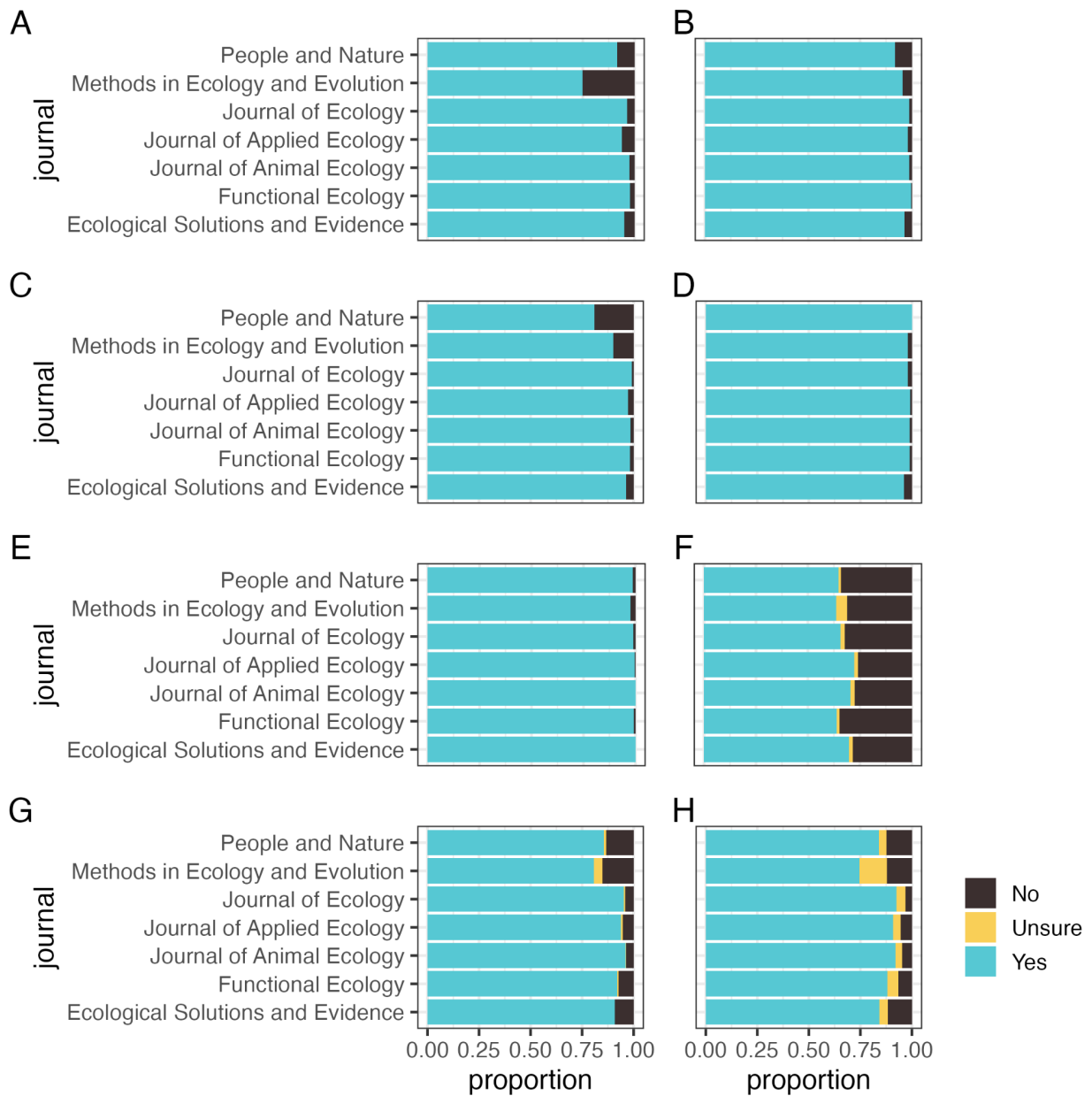


Figure S2: Data-archiving variables across the seven BES journals.

Proportion of papers in each journal where (A) data were used in the paper; (B) data were archived; (C) there was a working link to the archived data; (D) archived data could be downloaded; (E) archived data could be opened; (F) archived data had a README or equivalent; (G) archived data had a DOI (digital object identifier); and (H) archived data had a license. Plots show the proportion of papers in each category, excluding NAs. All panels, other than the used and archived panels, contain data only for papers where data were archived.

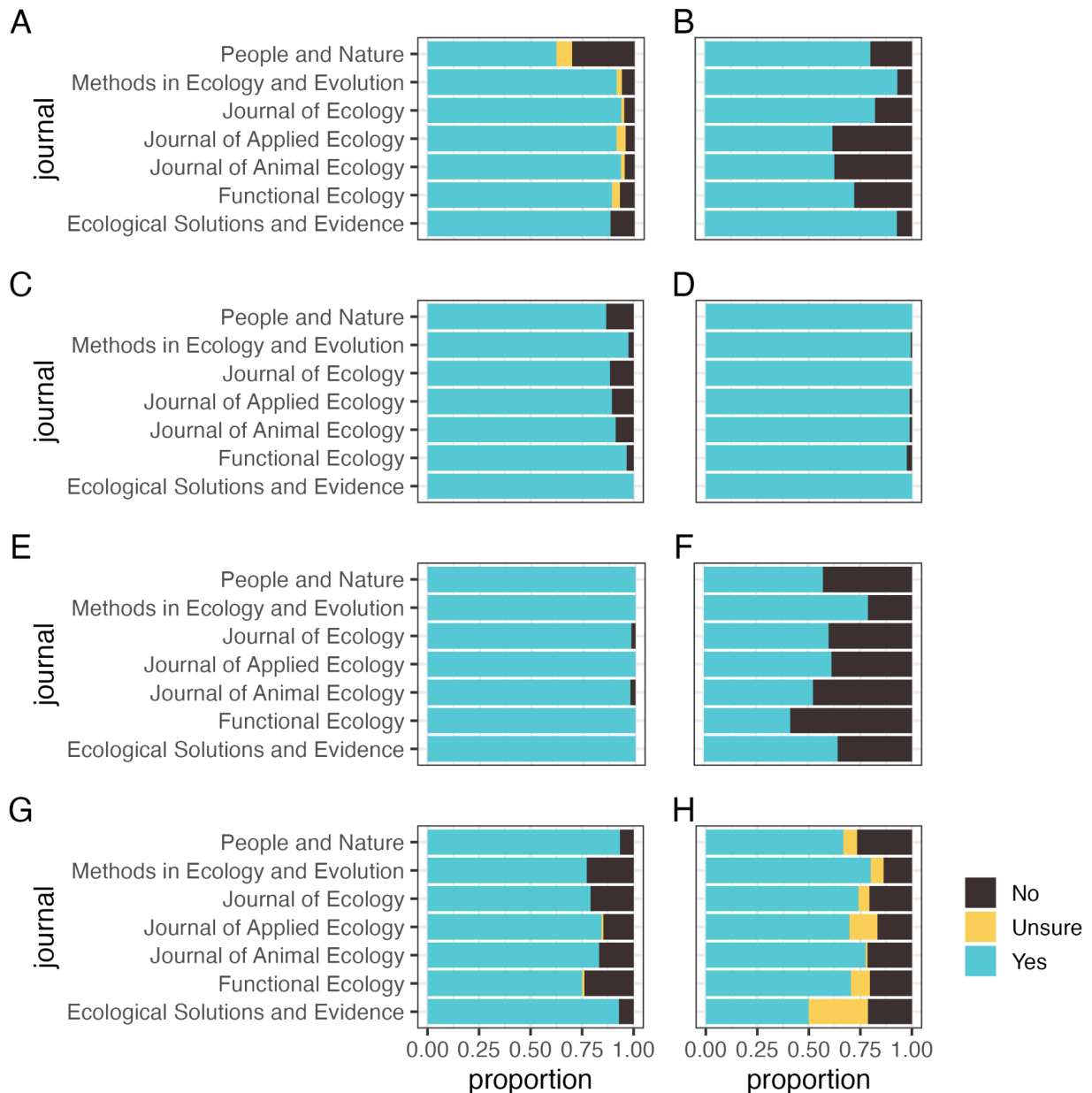


Figure S3: Code-archiving variables across the seven BES journals.

Proportion of papers in each journal where (A) code was used in the paper; (B) code was archived; (C) there was a working link to the archived code; (D) archived code could be downloaded; (E) archived code could be opened; (F) archived code had a README or equivalent; (G) archived code had a DOI (digital object identifier); and (H) archived code had a license. Plots show the proportion of papers in each category, excluding NAs. All panels, other than the used and archived panels, contain data only for papers where code was archived.

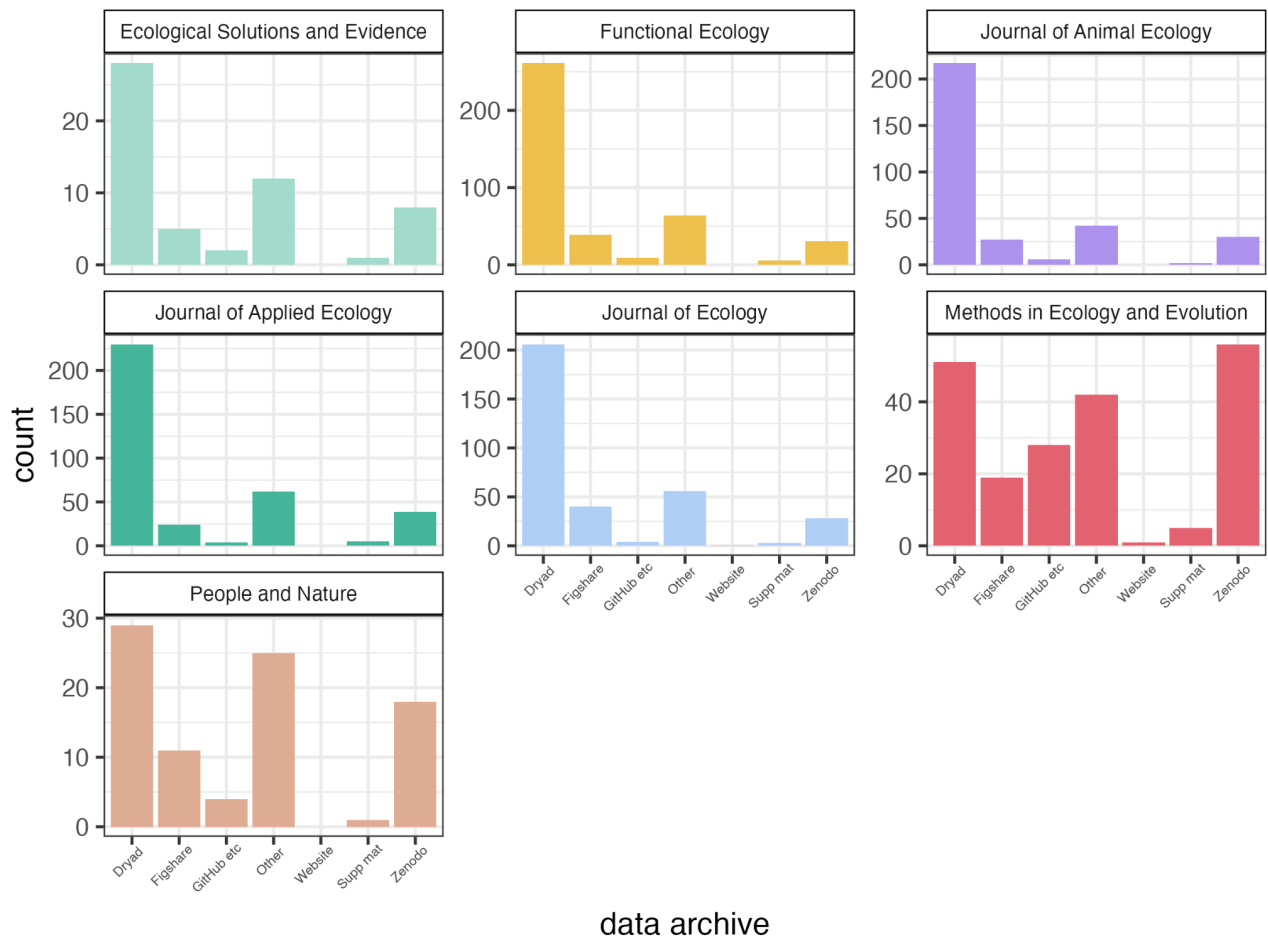


Figure S4: Archive location for archived data across the seven BES journals.

GitHub etc. represents an aggregate of Github, GitLab, Codeberg or similar platforms. Other includes institutional repositories and subject specific repositories (e.g. MoveBank). Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

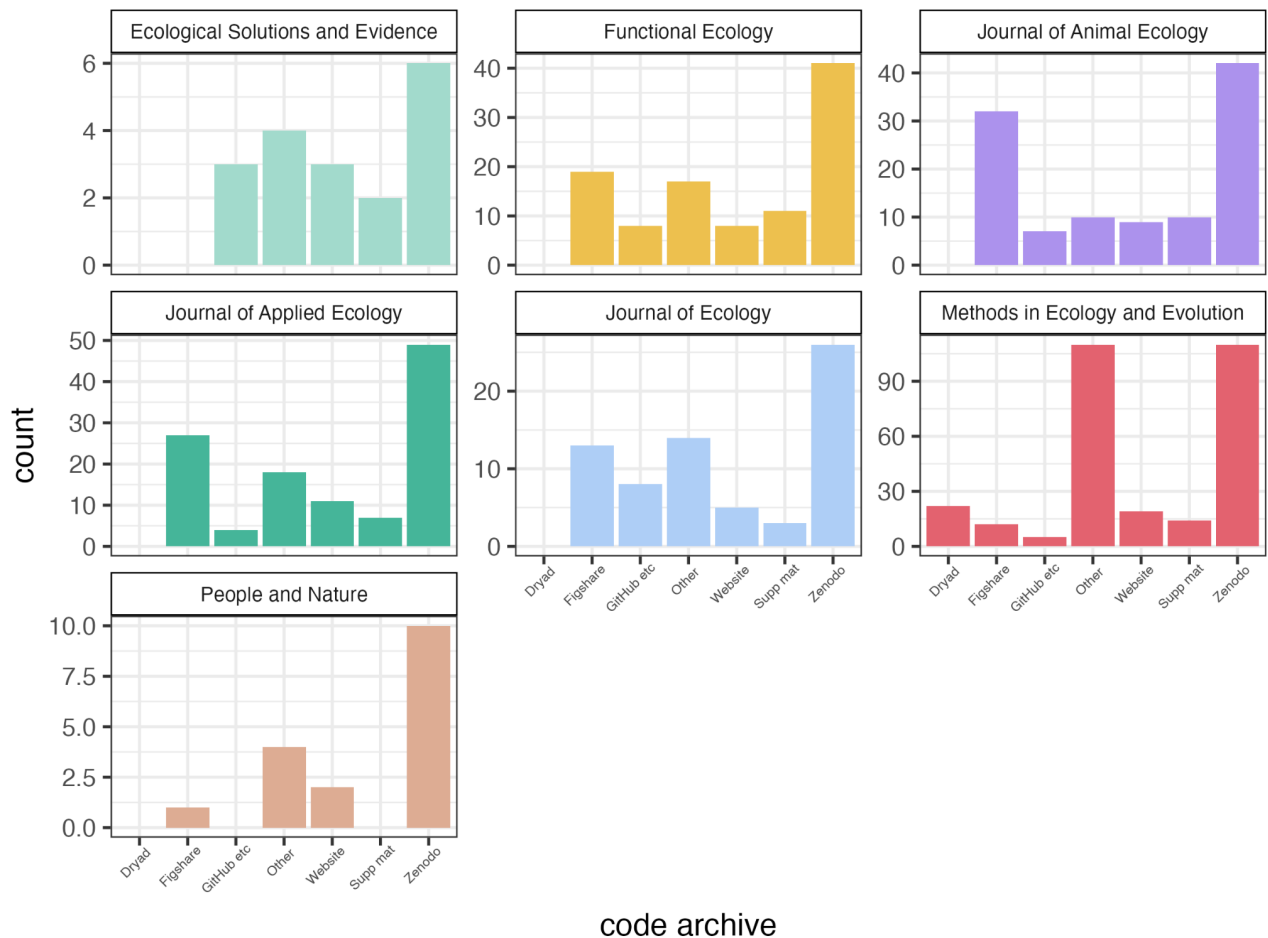


Figure S5: Archive location for archived code across the seven BES journals.

GitHub etc. represents an aggregate of Github, GitLab, Codeberg or similar platforms. Other includes institutional repositories and subject specific repositories (e.g. MoveBank). Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

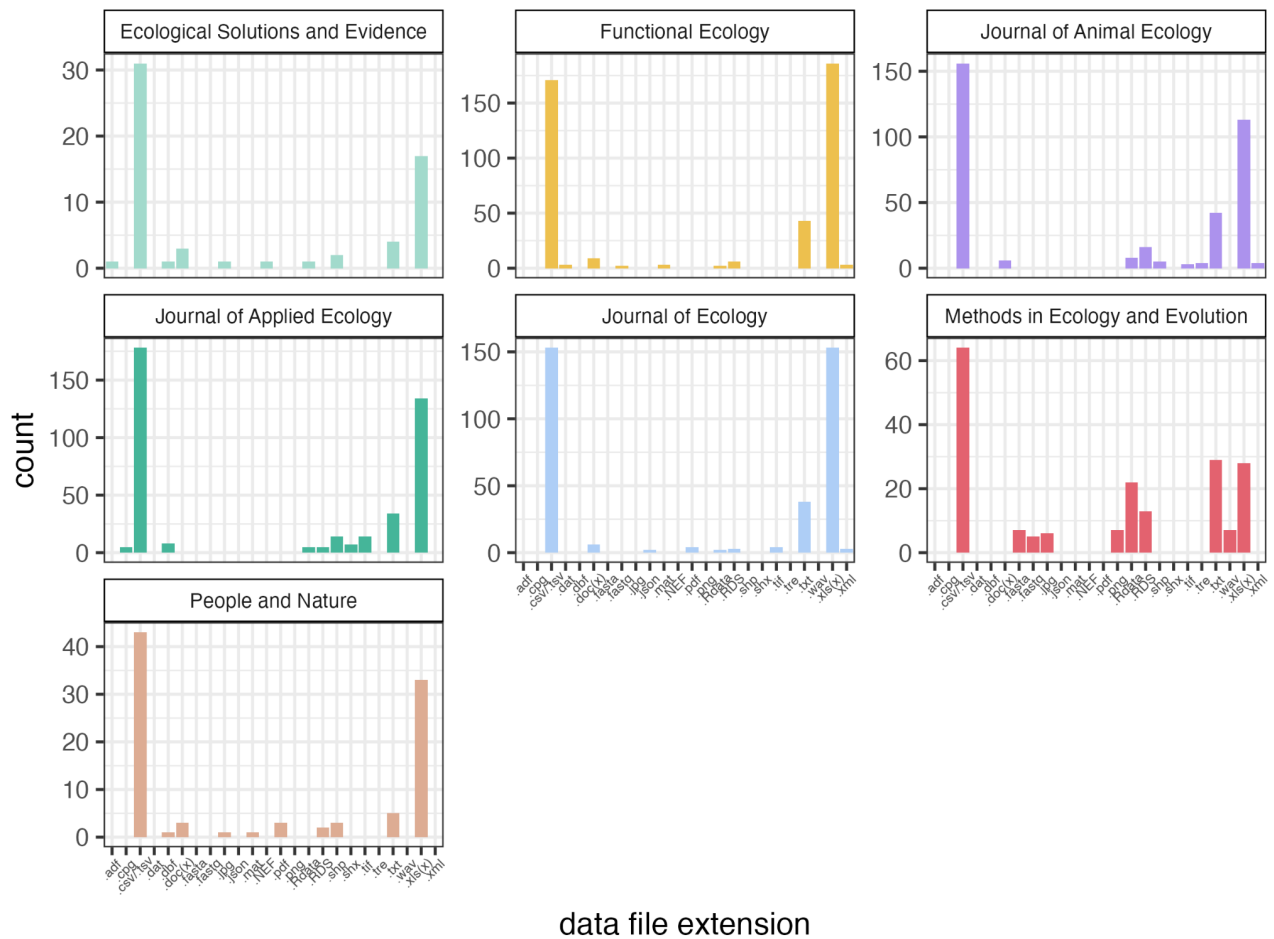


Figure S6: File extensions for archived data across the seven BES journals.

Numbers are data files with unique file extensions. Note the different y-axis scales for each plot.

Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

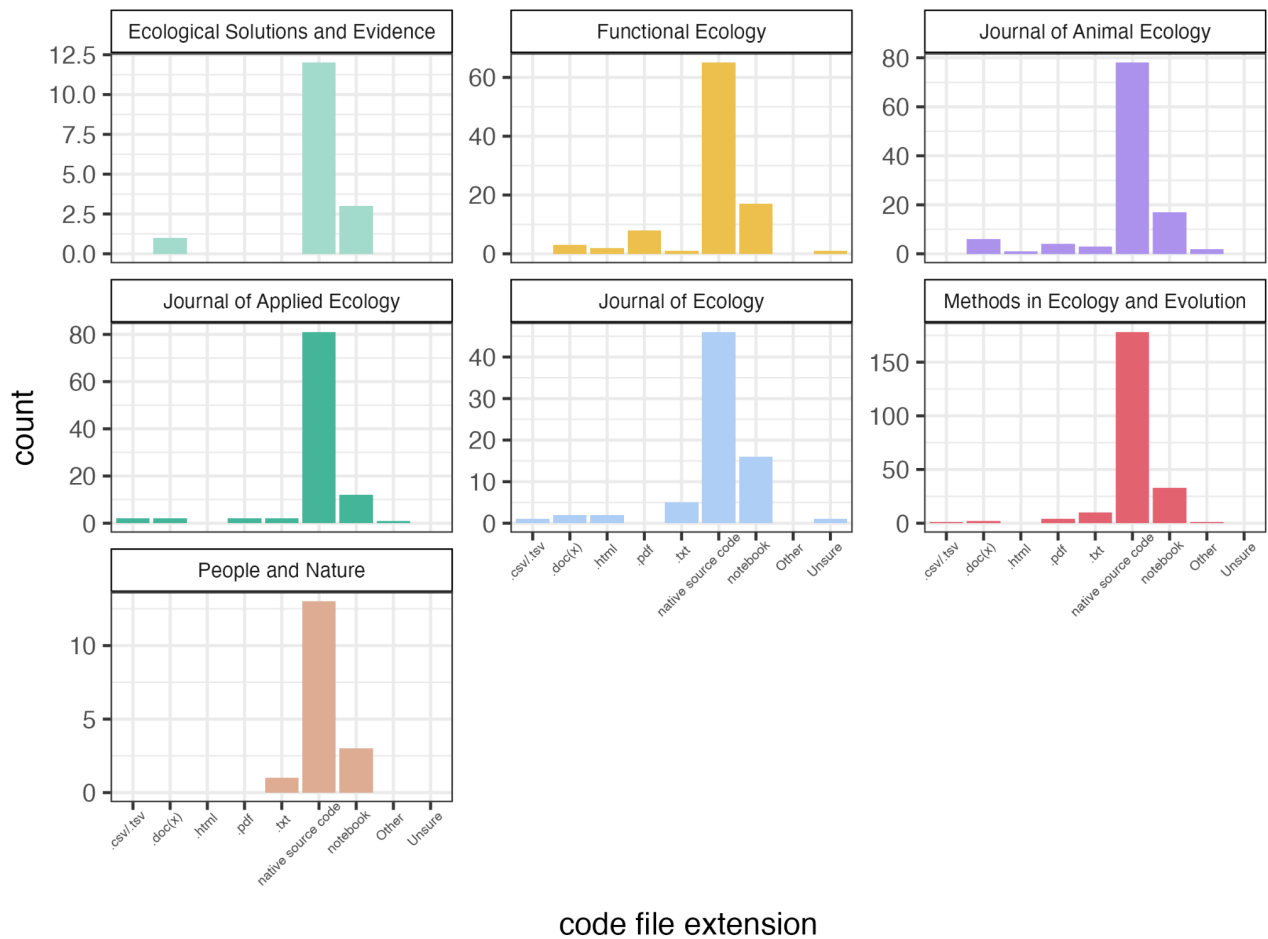


Figure S7: File extensions for archived code across the seven BES journals.

Numbers are code files with unique file extensions. Note the different y-axis scales for each plot.

Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

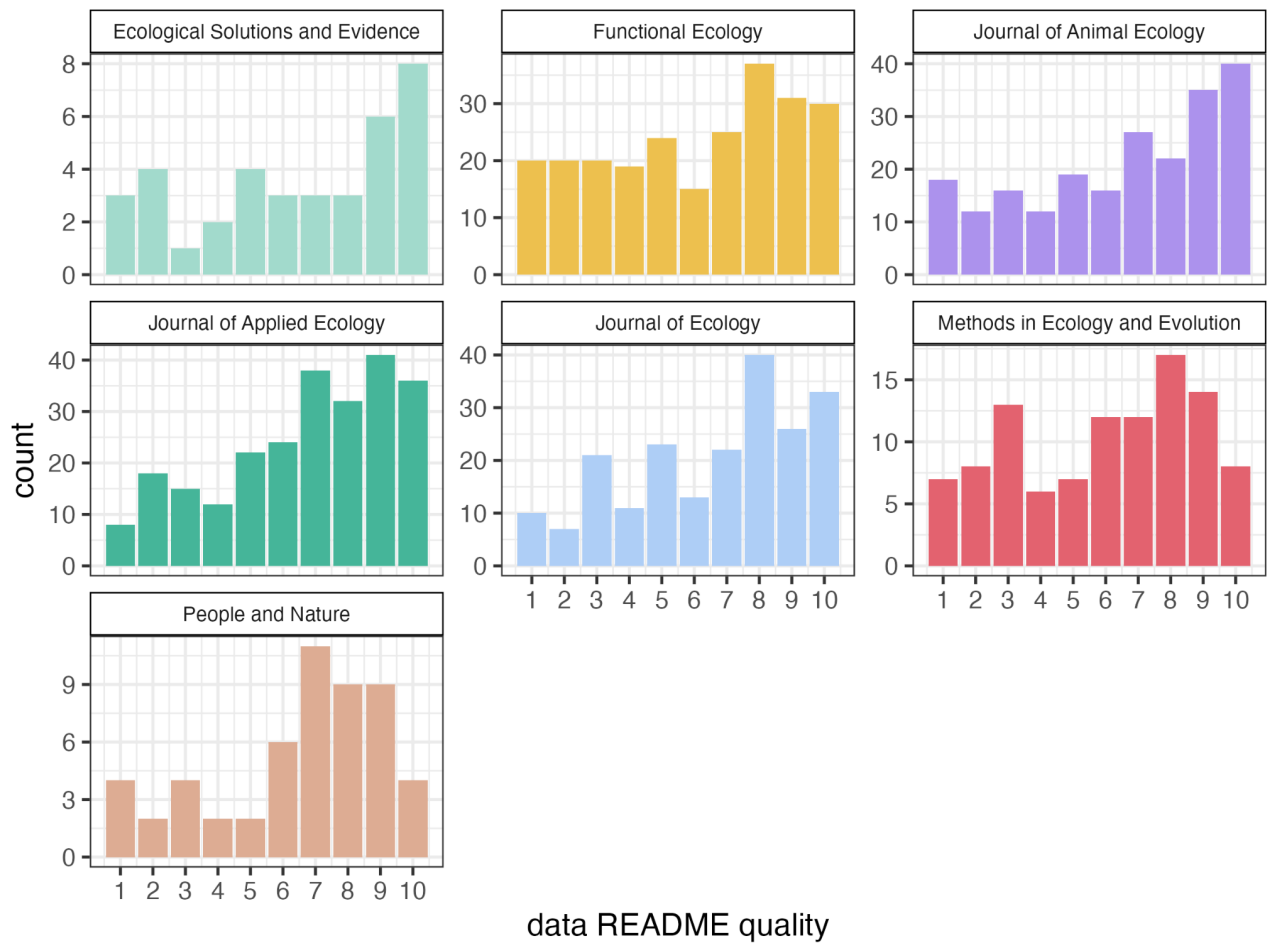


Figure S8: README quality for archived data across the seven BES journals.

Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. The median score for all journals is 7, except for *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* where the median is 6. Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

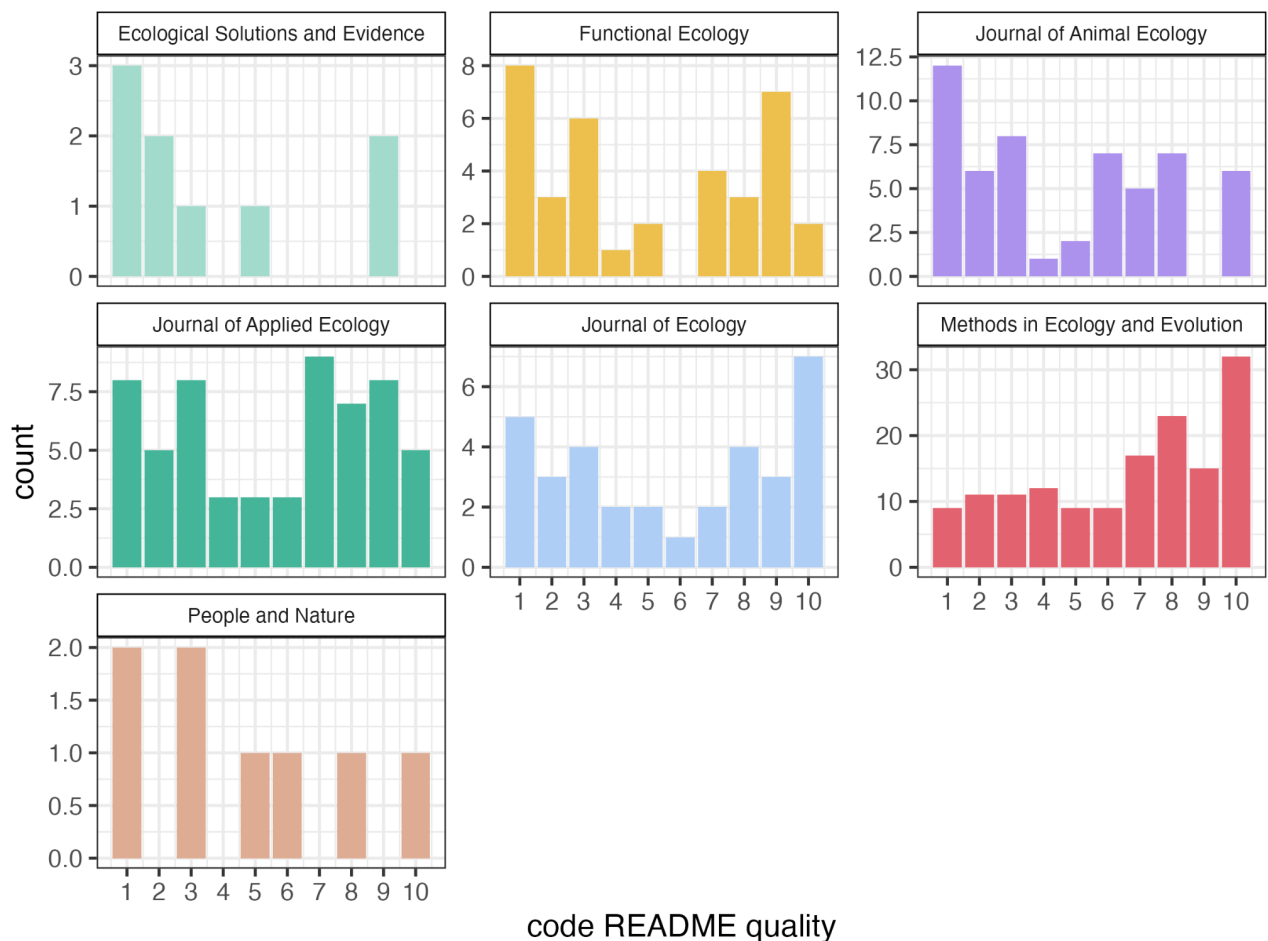


Figure S9: README quality for archived code across the seven BES journals.

Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. The median score for each journal was as follows. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* = 7, *Journal of Applied Ecology* and *Journal of Ecology* = 6, *Functional Ecology* and *Journal of Animal Ecology* = 4.5, *People and Nature* = 4, *Ecological Solutions and Evidence* = 2. Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

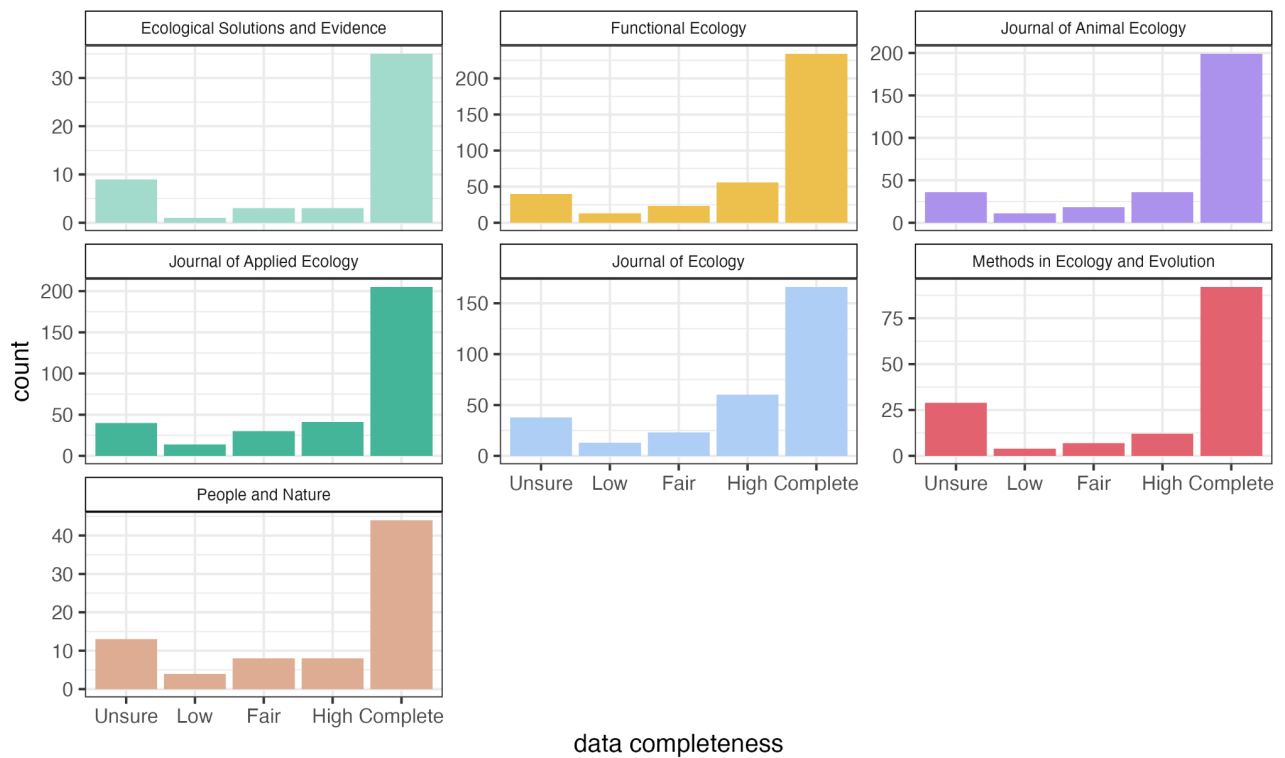


Figure S10: Data completeness for archived data across the seven BES journals.

Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

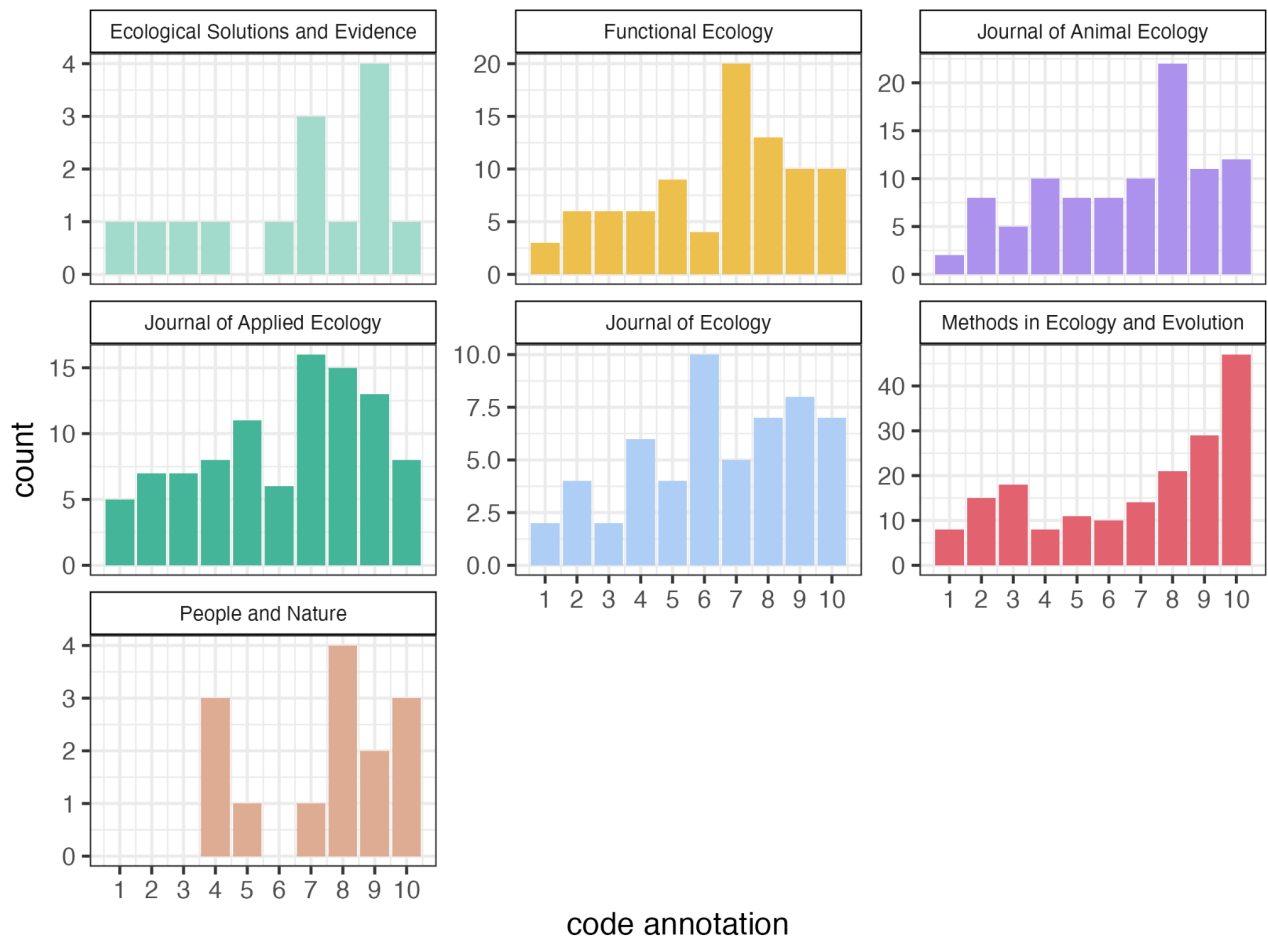
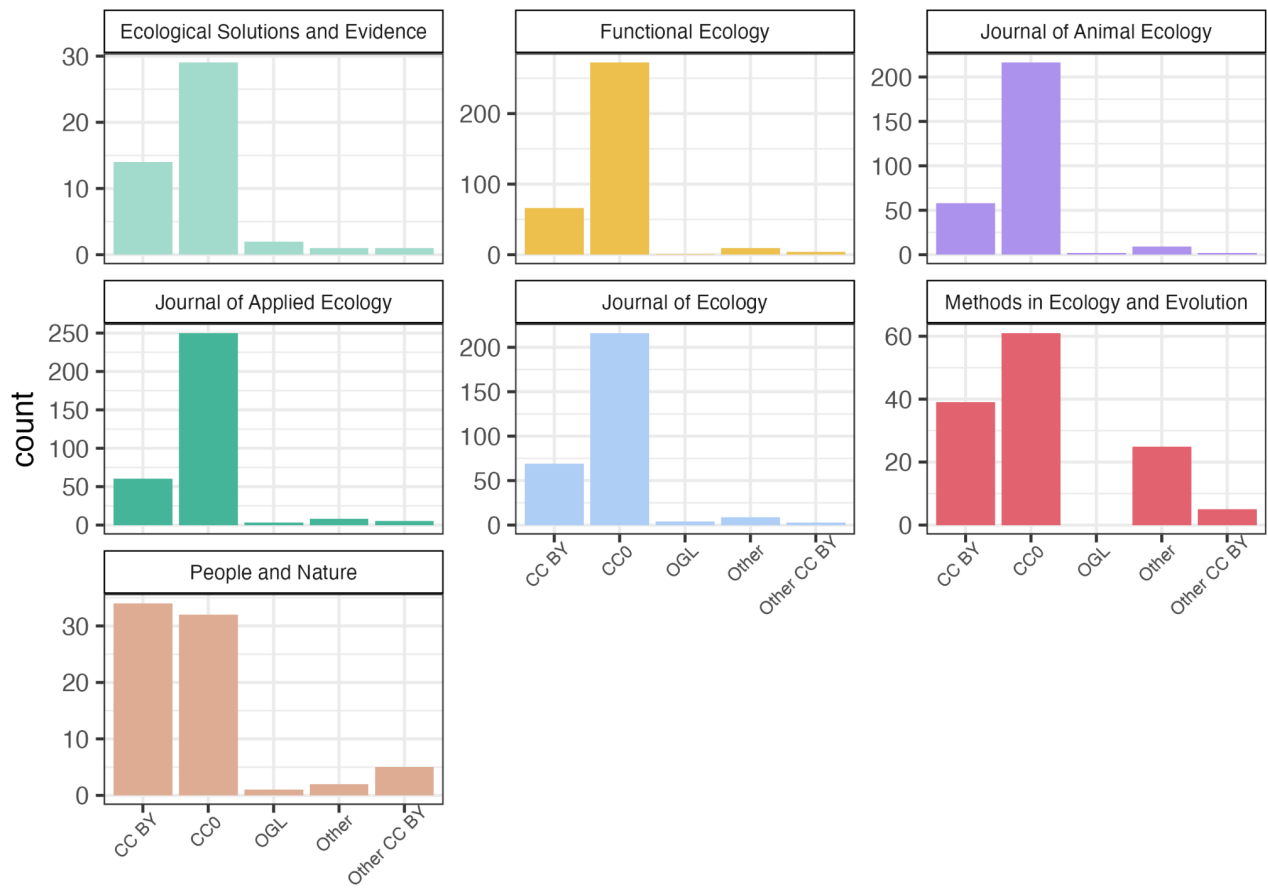


Figure S11: Code annotation quality for archived code across the seven BES journals.

Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. Median annotation quality for each journal was as follows. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* and *People and Nature* = 8, *Ecological Solutions and Evidence*, *Functional Ecology*, *Journal of Animal Ecology* and *Journal of Applied Ecology* = 7, and *Journal of Ecology* = 6. Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).



data license

Figure S12: Licenses for archived data across the seven BES journals.

Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

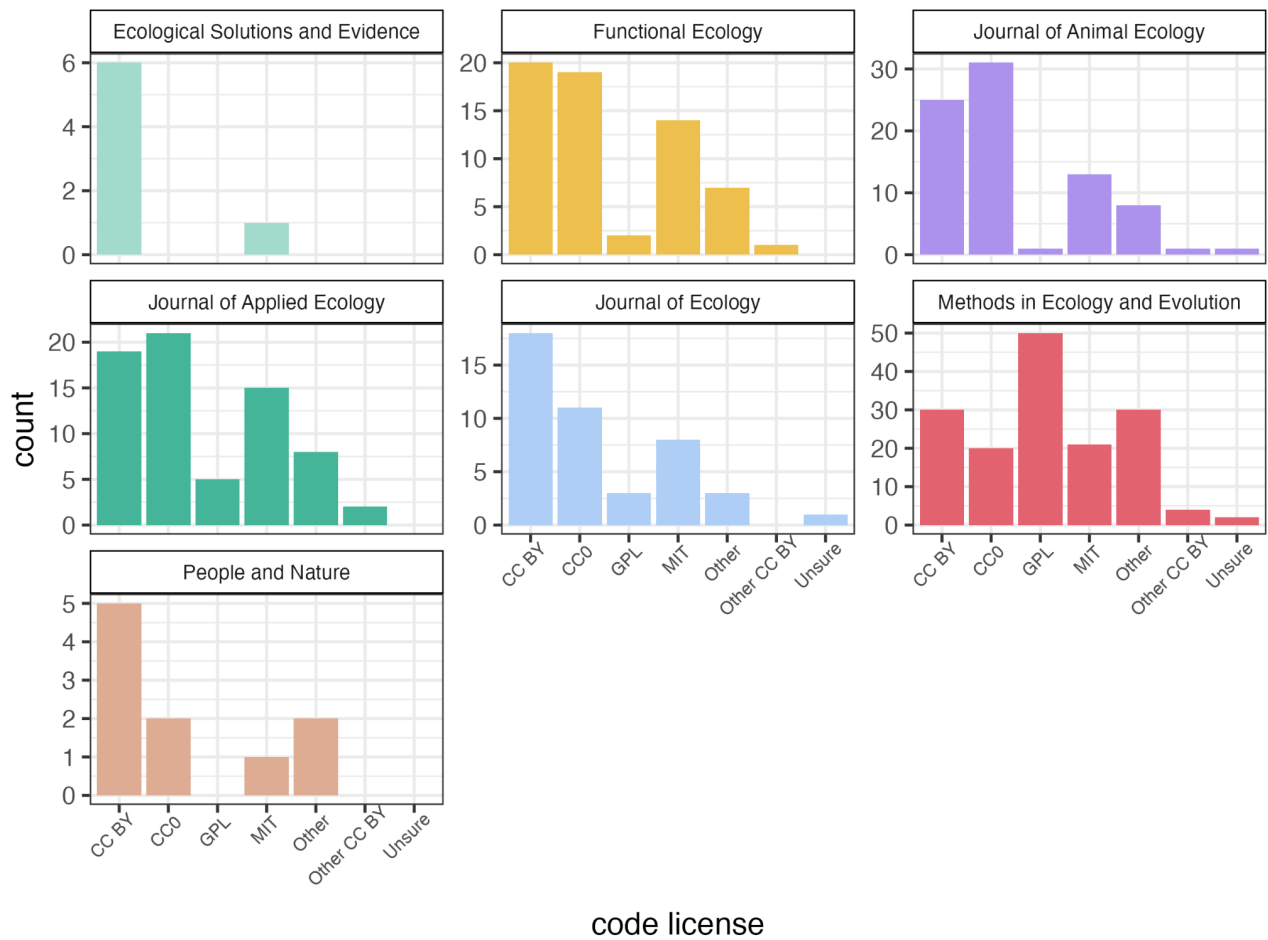


Figure S13: Licenses for archived code across the seven BES journals.

Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. Other CC BY includes CC BY-SA, CC BY-NC etc.

Colours are the official BES journal colours (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

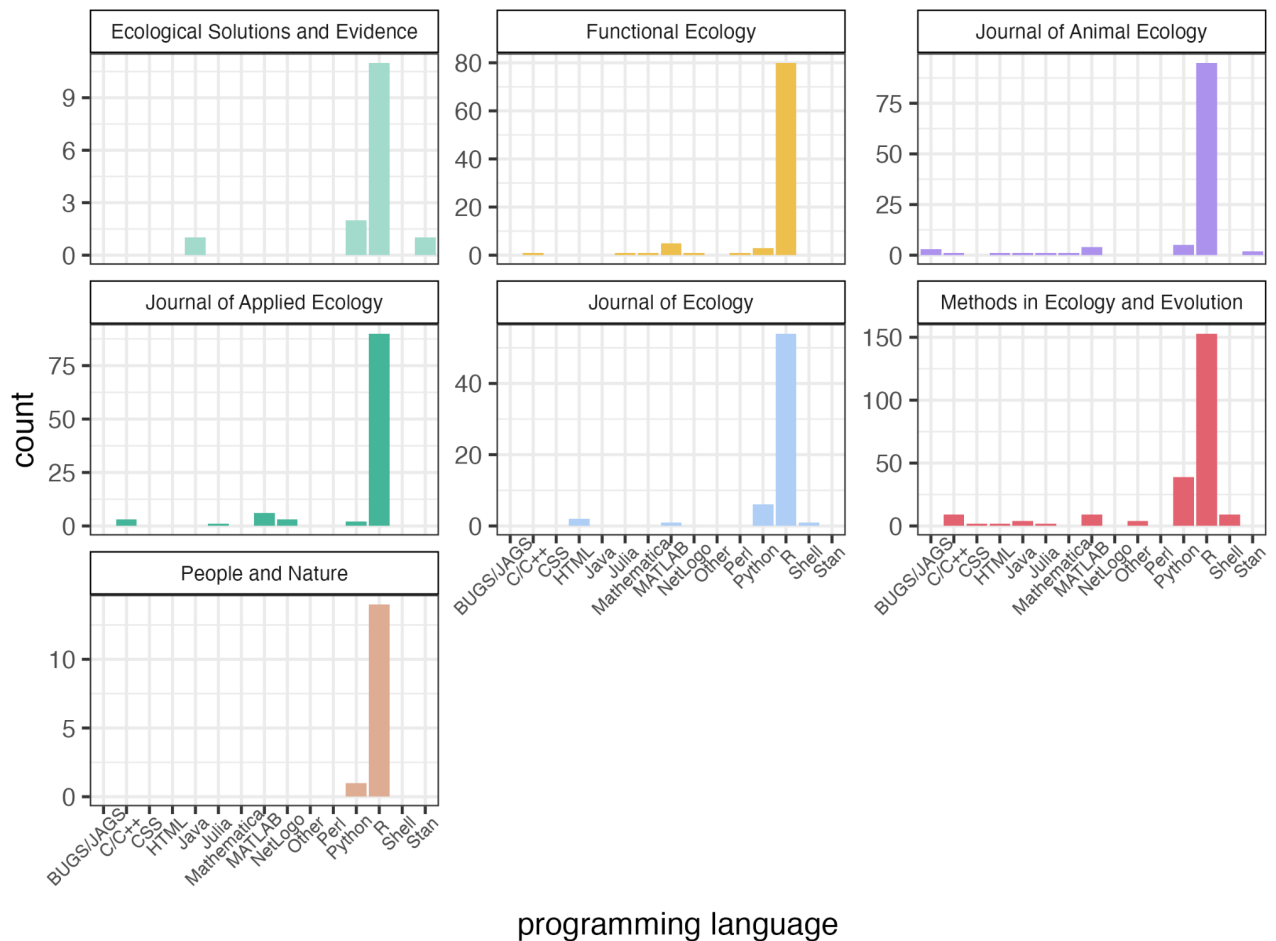


Figure S14: Programming languages of code across the seven BES journals.

Numbers are unique code files in different programming languages. Note the different y-axis scales for each plot. Colours are the official BES journal colours

(<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>).

Recorder variability

100 unique data recorders collected data for paper 2272. Recall that unique data recorder IDs were given to each unique individual and group of recorders, so this is not the same number as the total number of participants.

All 100 unique data recorders extracted identical information for 24 out of the 35 variables we used in our analyses (69%). Note that one recorder was unable to open the data or code because of issues with their computing setup, so we have counted this as correct. One recorder did not think code had been archived so did not answer any code questions so we excluded their results for the code questions.

Across all variables, mean percentage agreement ($\pm$ SE) was 91.7% ($\pm$ 3.67). Of the variables without perfect congruence, most are minor issues: (i) four recorders stated that the data did not have a license, but accurately noted the license type so this was likely a data entry error; (ii) one recorder did not think code was in the data availability statement; (iii) 12 recorders did not identify that the code had a README; (iv) two recorders did not identify the DOI for code (likely because it was shared with the data); (v) 12 recorders did not identify that the code had a license and thus did not record a license type; and (vi) one recorder recorded the wrong license for the code.

Of the four scaled variables, data completeness was reasonably consistent across recorders. It was scored as “complete” by 86 of the 100 recorders and eight scored it as “high”, one as “fair”, two as “low” and three as “unsure”. Variability was higher for README quality and code annotation (Figure S18). Data README quality ranged from 3 to 10 (median = 8, interquartile range = 7–9), code README quality ranged from 1 to 10 (median = 4, interquartile range = 3–8), and code annotation ranged from 2 to 10 (median = 7, interquartile range = 5.25–8). Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting results for these three variables (Figure S15).

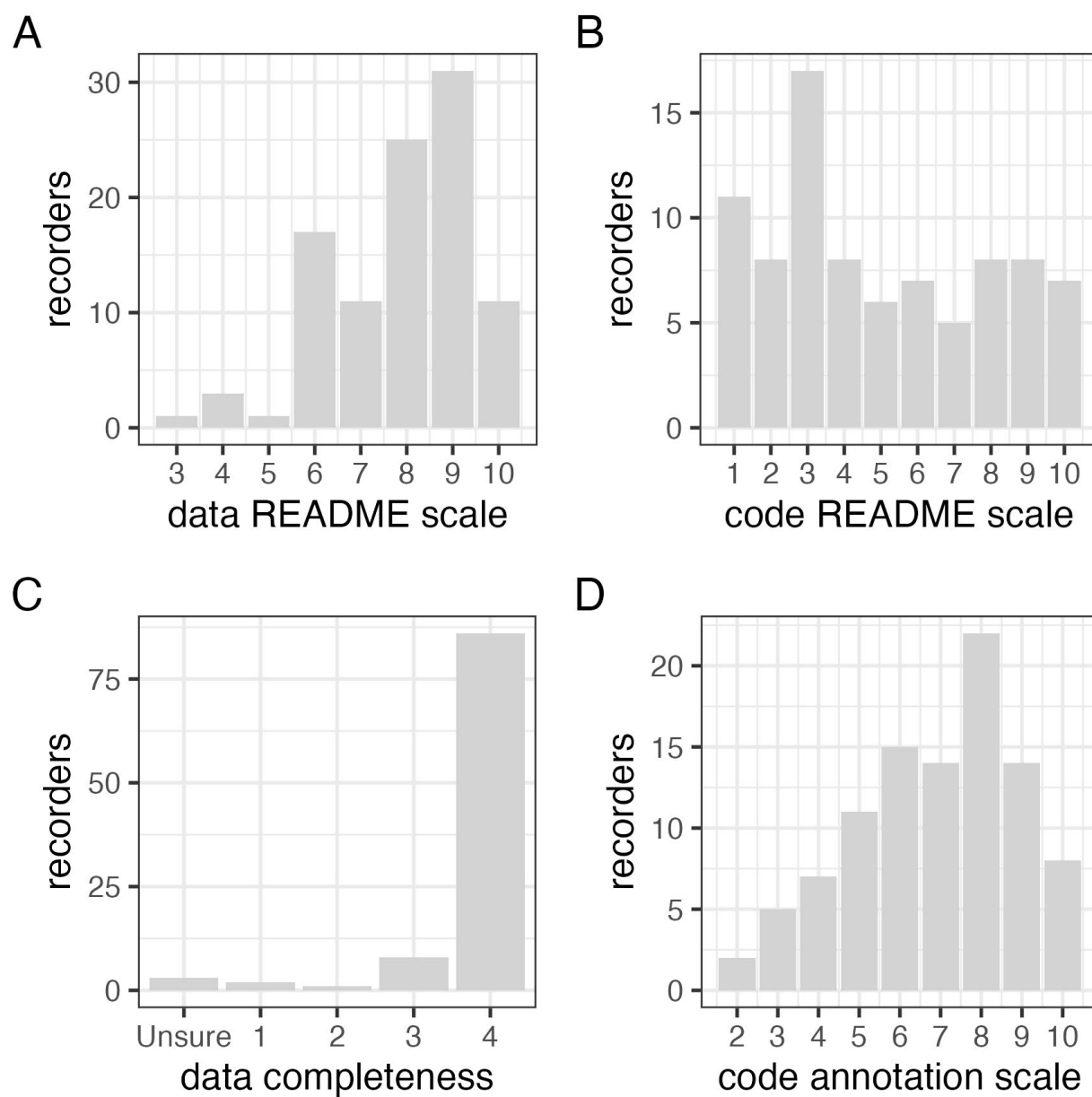


Figure S15: Recorder variability.

Results for data collected from paper 2,272 for README usefulness (A,B), data completeness (C) and code annotation score (D). For data completeness, 1 = low, 2 = fair, 3 = high and 4 = complete. Note the different y-axis scales across the four plots.

Other results figures

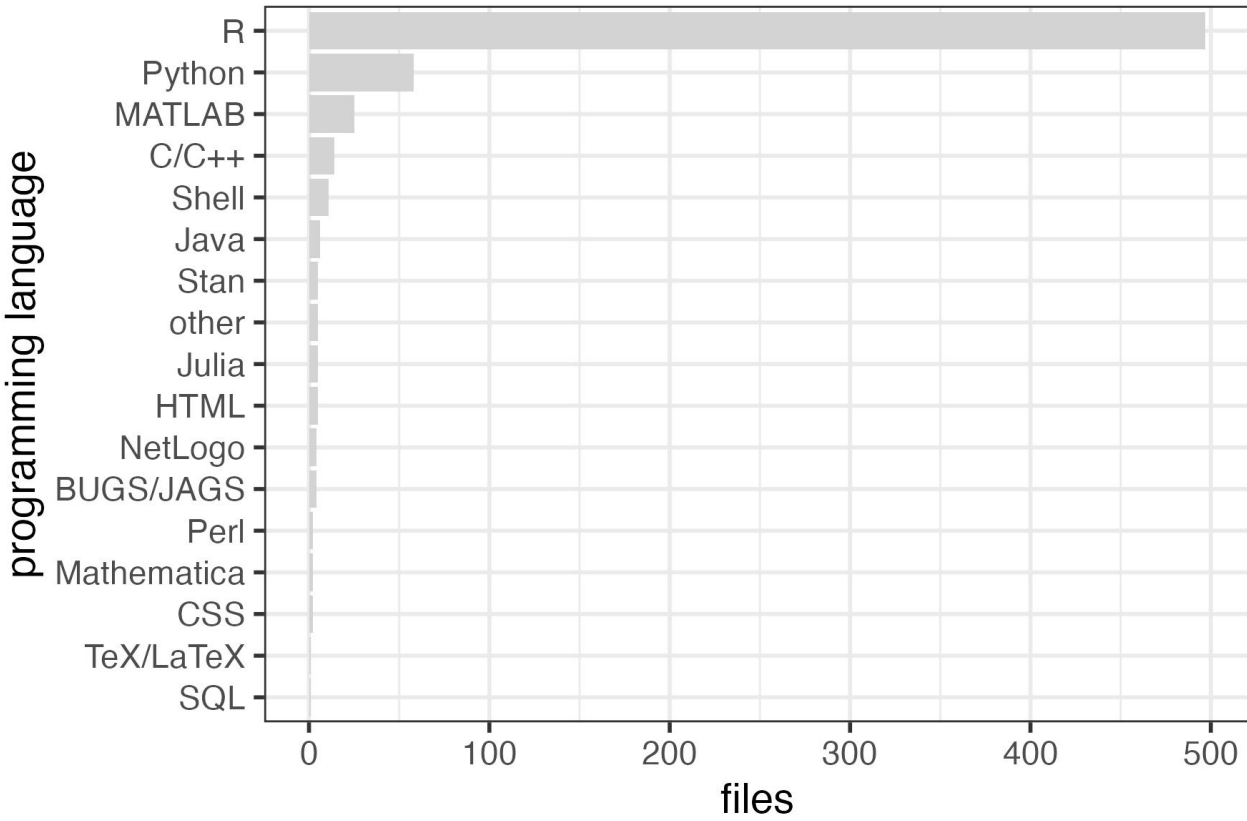


Figure S16: Numbers of unique code files written in each programming language.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1: Numbers of papers published in the seven BES journals between 2017 and 2024, and the number of these that are in our dataset.

% published = papers published in the journal/year as a percentage of the total published across all seven journals/eight years. % dataset = papers in the journal/year that are in our dataset as a percentage of the total that are in our dataset from all seven journals/eight years.

Journal	published	% published	dataset	% dataset	Year	published	% published	dataset	% dataset
<i>Ecological Solutions and Evidence</i>	255	3.14	60	3.22	2017	730	9.00	172	9.24
<i>Functional Ecology</i>	1,554	19.2	397	21.33	2018	809	9.97	195	10.48
<i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i>	1,282	15.8	323	17.36	2019	943	11.6	216	11.61
<i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i>	1,618	19.9	383	20.58	2020	1,090	13.4	253	13.59
<i>Journal of Ecology</i>	1,494	18.4	336	18.05	2021	1,228	15.1	301	16.17
<i>Methods in Ecology and Evolution</i>	1,377	17	243	13.06	2022	1,115	13.7	251	13.49
<i>People and Nature</i>	532	6.56	119	6.39	2023	1,047	12.9	218	11.71
					2024	1,150	14.2	255	13.7
TOTAL	8,112	-	1,861	-		8,112	-	1,861	-

Table S2: Summary results for data and code across all seven journals combined

Numbers of papers in our dataset where data and/or code were used, archived, mentioned in the Data Availability statement, could be accessed via the link provided, could be downloaded, could be opened, had a README or similar, had a DOI (digital object identifier) and had a license. % columns represent the percentages of all papers included in this study (n = 1,861), papers that used data (n = 1,735) or code (n = 1,670) only; or papers with archived data (n = 1,690) or code (n = 577) only.

Data/ Code	Variable	n	% of total papers	% of total papers where data/code were used	% of total papers where data/code were archived
Data	Used in paper	1,735	93.23	-	-
Data	In Data Availability statement	1,700	91.35	97.98	-
Data	Archived	1,690	90.81	97.41	-
Data	Link works	1,633	87.75	94.12	96.63
Data	Can be downloaded	1,600	85.98	92.22	94.67
Data	Can be opened	1,541	82.80	88.82	91.18
Data	Has README or similar	1,114	59.86	64.21	65.92
Data	Has DOI	1,543	82.91	88.93	91.30
Data	Has license	1,438	77.27	82.88	85.09
Code	Used in paper	1,670	89.74	-	-
Code	In Data Availability statement	453	24.34	27.11	78.51
Code	Archived	577	31.00	34.55	-
Code	Link works	544	29.23	32.57	94.28
Code	Can be downloaded	536	28.80	32.10	92.89
Code	Can be opened	495	26.60	29.64	85.79
Code	Has README or similar	351	18.86	21.02	60.83
Code	Has DOI	457	24.56	27.57	79.20
Code	Has license	428	23.00	25.63	74.18

Table S3: Summary results for data divided by journal.

Numbers of papers where data were used, archived, could be accessed via the link provided, could be downloaded, and could be opened. % are the percentages of all papers for the used column (corresponding to the column **% of total papers** in Table S2), and % percentages of papers that used data for the other columns (corresponding to the column **% of total papers where data/code were used** in Table S2).

			used		archived		link		download		open	
Journal	total	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
All	1,861	-	1,735	93.23	1,690	97.41	1,633	94.12	1,600	92.22	1,541	88.82
<i>Ecological Solutions and Evidence</i>	60	3.22	57	95	53	92.98	52	91.23	51	89.47	51	89.47
<i>Functional Ecology</i>	397	21.33	388	97.73	386	99.48	380	97.94	371	95.62	361	93.04
<i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i>	323	17.36	315	97.52	310	98.41	305	96.83	302	95.87	295	93.65
<i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i>	383	20.58	360	93.99	352	97.78	343	95.28	338	93.89	327	90.83
<i>Journal of Ecology</i>	336	18.05	324	96.43	320	98.77	317	97.84	310	95.68	304	93.83
<i>Methods in Ecology and Evolution</i>	243	13.06	182	74.9	170	93.41	155	85.16	149	81.87	126	69.23
<i>People and Nature</i>	119	6.39	109	91.6	99	90.83	81	74.31	79	72.48	77	70.64

Table S4: Summary results for code divided by journal.

Numbers of papers where code was used, archived, mentioned in the Data Availability statement, could be accessed via the link provided, could be downloaded, and could be opened. % are the percentages of all papers for the used column (corresponding to the column **% of total papers** in Table S2), and % percentages of papers that used code for the other columns (corresponding to the column **% of total papers where data/code were used** in Table S2).

		used		archived		statement		link		download		open	
Journal	total	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
All	1,861	1,670	89.74	577	34.55	453	27.12	544	32.57	536	32.10	495	29.64
<i>Ecological Solutions and Evidence</i>	60	53	88.33	12	22.64	11	20.75	12	22.64	12	22.64	12	22.64
<i>Functional Ecology</i>	397	354	89.17	88	24.86	63	17.80	83	23.45	81	22.88	77	21.75
<i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i>	323	302	93.5	103	34.11	64	21.19	94	31.13	91	30.13	84	27.81
<i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i>	383	350	91.38	102	29.14	64	18.29	92	26.29	91	26.00	85	24.29
<i>Journal of Ecology</i>	336	315	93.75	60	19.05	49	15.56	54	17.14	54	17.14	50	15.87
<i>Methods in Ecology and Evolution</i>	243	222	91.36	197	88.74	183	82.43	192	86.49	190	85.59	170	76.58
<i>People and Nature</i>	119	74	62.18	15	20.27	12	16.22	13	17.57	13	17.57	13	17.57

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