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Drivers of distribution patterns of Mesoamerican tropical forest birds

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PROPOSITIONS

accompanying the dissertation

Drivers of Distribution Patterns of Mesoamerican Tropical Forest Birds

by

Vicente de J. Castillo Chora

- 1.- A simple parameter that includes a rate shift rather than inter-species differences explains community assembly (*Chapter 2*).
2. Island biogeography infer species number; niche-based approaches identify species (*Chapters 2 and 5*).
3. In continuous and semi-homogeneous landscapes, small population differences can significantly impact species distributions (*Chapter 3*).
4. Contact zones, often referred to as “natural laboratories”, might be better described as “natural courts”, as depending on whom we ask, we get a different story (*Chapter 4*).
5. Environmentally, a large distance between similar is shorter than a small distance between dissimilar. (*Chapters 3 and 5*).
6. Evolutionary history is not about what living beings experienced, but about what we can analyze, infer, and how we can convey it (*this thesis*). *Modified from Gabriel García Márquez: La vida no es la que uno vivió, sino la que uno recuerda y cómo la recuerda para contarla.*