**Supporting Information S2.** Abiotic characteristics of the Macaronesian islands considered, and species richness of all bryophytes (*STOT*), mosses (*SM*) and liverworts (*SL*). Information is organized according to each hypothesis: the Equilibrium Model of Island Biogeography (EMIB), the General Dynamic Model (GDM), the Climatic Model (CLIMATE) and the Habitat Diversity model (HD).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | EMIB |  | GDM |  | CLIMATE |  | HD |  |
| Island | *STOT* | *SM* | *SL* | *A**(*km2) | *DM*(km) | *DI*(km) | *N* |  | *T*(Ma) |  | *TMAX*(ºC) | *PMIN*(mm) | *TS*(%) | *PS*(%) | *PANN*(mm) | *MistL* |  | *ELEV*(m) | *sdELEV*(m) | *SLOPE**div* | *EZ* |
| COR | 178 | 109 | 66 | 17 | 1858 | 18 | 0.42 |  | 0.73 |  | 24.9 | 174.3 | 30.0 | 37.1 | 1338.5 | 62.00 |  | 718 | 171.79 | 2.33 | 2 |
| FLO | 272 | 162 | 106 | 143 | 1864 | 18 | 0.07 |  | 2.16 |  | 24.1 | 191.2 | 30.7 | 36.9 | 1492.9 | 65.40 |  | 913 | 210.25 | 2.02 | 4 |
| FAI | 281 | 169 | 107 | 173 | 1657 | 6 | 9.2 |  | 0.73 |  | 24.2 | 147.9 | 29.9 | 33.5 | 1076.5 | 46.60 |  | 1043 | 228.88 | 1.55 | 5 |
| PIC | 279 | 156 | 119 | 436 | 1610 | 6 | 4.34 |  | 0.25 |  | 23.5 | 149.1 | 30.2 | 34.7 | 1123.2 | 59.00 |  | 2351 | 363.39 | 1.64 | 6 |
| GRA | 129 | 81 | 46 | 62 | 1596 | 36 | 0.46 |  | 2.50 |  | 24.6 | 134.1 | 29.0 | 38.3 | 1093.8 | 5.70 |  | 398 | 89.97 | 1.51 | 2 |
| SJO | 308 | 176 | 128 | 246 | 1584 | 18 | 1.72 |  | 0.55 |  | 23.9 | 139.8 | 29.7 | 37.0 | 1111.3 | 70.00 |  | 1067 | 219.80 | 2.01 | 4 |
| TER | 355 | 208 | 142 | 400 | 1520 | 37 | 0.34 |  | 3.52 |  | 23.8 | 128.1 | 29.1 | 43.6 | 1166.5 | 45.20 |  | 1020 | 206.42 | 1.33 | 4 |
| SMI | 355 | 227 | 124 | 750 | 1368 | 80 | 0.06 |  | 4.01 |  | 24.2 | 115.6 | 28.6 | 39.3 | 1044.4 | 48.80 |  | 1103 | 208.01 | 1.75 | 5 |
| SMA | 211 | 136 | 72 | 97 | 1376 | 80 | 0.14 |  | 8.12 |  | 25.2 | 79.1 | 28.1 | 45.5 | 765.4 | 14.70 |  | 587 | 103.38 | 1.75 | 4 |
| FUE | 130 | 90 | 40 | 1725 | 95 | 11 | 5.73 |  | 20.00 |  | 26.9 | 0.0 | 24.9 | 90.8 | 120.5 | 0.33 |  | 807 | 120.58 | 1.37 | 4 |
| CAN | 306 | 224 | 77 | 1532 | 195 | 61 | 0.80 |  | 14.50 |  | 26.6 | 3.6 | 26.6 | 84.9 | 250.6 | 38.33 |  | 1950 | 411.40 | 2.04 | 6 |
| GOM | 291 | 193 | 94 | 378 | 333 | 28 | 2.86 |  | 12.00 |  | 26.5 | 4.6 | 28.7 | 85.2 | 373.4 | 40.34 |  | 1484 | 333.56 | 2.17 | 7 |
| HIE | 195 | 135 | 57 | 278 | 381 | 61 | 0.47 |  | 1.10 |  | 26.3 | 2.7 | 28.0 | 87.8 | 311.2 | 44.79 |  | 2423 | 389.49 | 2.04 | 7 |
| LAN | 114 | 88 | 25 | 796 | 125 | 11 | 11.98 |  | 16.00 |  | 27.0 | 0.3 | 26.1 | 89.2 | 148.4 | 0.15 |  | 670 | 125.90 | 1.06 | 2 |
| PAL | 348 | 247 | 95 | 729 | 414 | 57 | 0.50 |  | 1.70 |  | 25.2 | 5.6 | 30.7 | 84.7 | 441.0 | 60.13 |  | 2425 | 536.37 | 2.11 | 8 |
| TEN | 430 | 296 | 128 | 2058 | 286 | 28 | 1.03 |  | 8.00 |  | 25.5 | 7.1 | 31.5 | 83.6 | 436.6 | 53.84 |  | 3718 | 708.35 | 1.83 | 9 |
| DES | 90 | 56 | 30 | 15 | 599 | 24 | 1.24 |  | 5.01 |  | 24.8 | 15.4 | 23.6 | 71.7 | 531.4 | 0.00 |  | 442 | 121.32 | 2.41 | 2 |
| MAD | 510 | 333 | 171 | 740 | 639 | 24 | 0.08 |  | 4.63 |  | 22.8 | 28.7 | 26.8 | 67.0 | 682.1 | 64.91 |  | 1850 | 403.29 | 2.26 | 6 |
| PSA | 113 | 45 | 64 | 40 | 633 | 39 | 0.03 |  | 14.00 |  | 24.7 | 17.4 | 24.9 | 66.4 | 431.2 | 0.00 |  | 517 | 82.66 | 1.85 | 2 |
| NIC | 72 | 58 | 14 | 343 | 721 | 17 | 0.40 |  | 6.20 |  | 27.1 | 0.0 | 16.6 | 144.8 | 219.4 | 5.17 |  | 1304 | 209.79 | 2.00 | 2 |
| FOG | 54 | 36 | 17 | 476 | 725 | 18 | 0.56 |  | 5.00 |  | 24.5 | 0.7 | 14.4 | 150.5 | 388.8 | 49.49 |  | 2829 | 630.42 | 1.86 | 2 |
| ANT | 109 | 91 | 17 | 779 | 834 | 13 | 1.28 |  | 7.50 |  | 24.4 | 0.5 | 16.5 | 131.8 | 269.8 | 41.09 |  | 1979 | 469.14 | 2.15 | 2 |
| VIC | 25 | 17 | 8 | 227 | 818 | 9 | 4.53 |  | 6.60 |  | 27.2 | 0.0 | 15.4 | 159.9 | 113.1 | 0.01 |  | 725 | 106.13 | 1.76 | 1 |
| SAN | 35 | 21 | 13 | 991 | 634 | 25 | 0.65 |  | 4.60 |  | 28.04 | 0.1 | 14.7 | 150.7 | 352.9 | 4.30 |  | 1392 | 205.61 | 1.85 | 2 |

**Island codes:** for the Azorean archipelago, COR (Corvo), FLO (Flores), FAI (Faial), PIC (Pico), GRA (Graciosa), SJO (S. Jorge), TER (Terceira), SMI (S. Miguel), SMA (Sta. Maria); for the Canary archipelago, FUE (Fuerteventura), CAN (Gran Canaria), GOM (La Gomera), HIE (El Hierro), LAN (Lanzarote), PAL (La Palma), TEN (Tenerife); for the Madeiran archipelago, MAD (Madeira), DES (Desertas), PSA (Posto Santo); for the Cape Verde archipelago, NIC (S. Nicolau), FOG (Fogo), ANT (S. Antão), VIC (S. Vicente), SAN (Santiago).

**Variable codes and data sources**

*A*: planar area1.

*DM*: distance to the closest mainland1.

*DI*: distance to the closest island1.

*N*: neighbor index2 [1]. It is calculated as:

, where *A* is the island area and *D* is the distance to the closest island.

*T*: oldest geological age estimated from the exposed aerial part of the island3.

*TMAX*: maximum temperature of warmest month4.

*PMIN*: precipitation of driest quarter4.

*TS*: temperature seasonality4.

*PS*: precipitatioin seasonality4.

*PANN*: annual precipitation4.

*MistL*: orographic mist layer5.

*ELEV*: maximum altitude6.

*sdELEV*: standard deviation of altitude6.

*SLOPEdiv*: slope diversity6.

*EZ*: number of main ecological zones7.

1Most geographical variables (*A*, *DM*, *DI*) were obtained from Cardoso et al. [2] and GIS layers in the case of Cape Verde.

2The neighbor index (*N*) was calculated following Kalmar and Currie [1] as:

, where *A* is the island area and *D* is the distance to the closest island.

3The oldest geological age or time (*T*) for each island was obtained mainly from Triantis et al. [3], but also from Duprat et al. [4], Holm et al. [5] and Olehowski et al. [6].

4Climatic variables (*TMAX*, *PMIN*, *TS*, *PS*, *PANN*) were obtained from WorldClim at 1 km resolution (data generated by interpolation of local stations for the 1960–1990 period; available at www.worldclim.org); values per island were calculated as the average of all island pixels.

5Orographic mist layer (*MistL*) was derived using the methodology proposed by Azevedo et al. [7], [8] which relies on the ability of the islands to promote and intercept orographic clouds from the orographically-induced adiabatic cooling of the air as it goes up the island in the context of a large scale advection. *MistL* can then be obtained by establishing the average elevation where dew point occurs (i.e. the ceiling of orographic clouds) and the ratio between the area above that level and the total area of the island.

6Topographical variables (*ELEV*, *sdELEV*, *SLOPEdiv*) were derived from a 90 m resolution digital elevation model (available at <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/>). Diversity of slopes (*SLOPEdiv*) was calculated as the Shannon diversity index of all pixel values.

7The number of ecological zones followed the classification proposed by Patiño et al. [9], and references therein.

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