

# **Australian macrofungi have wide distributions that are explained by climate**

**Tom May & Grant Harris**

**Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**



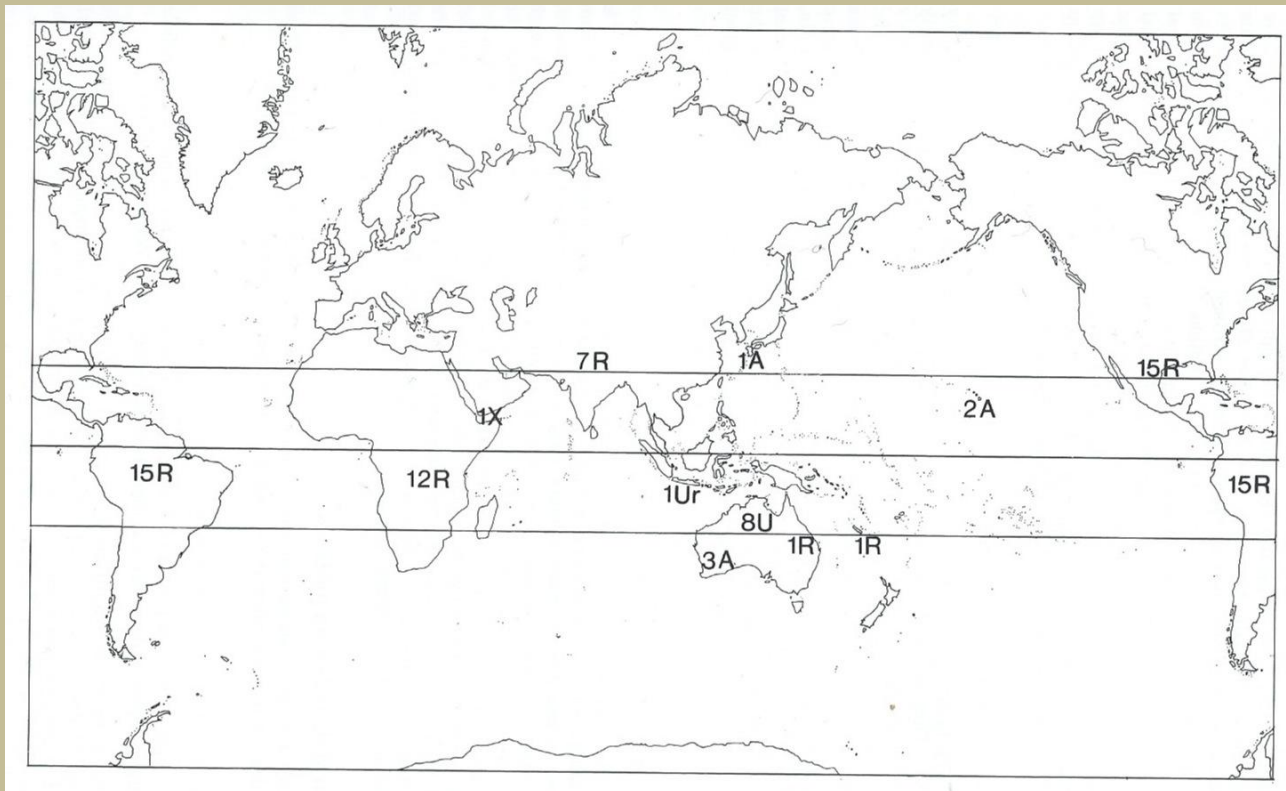
Royal  
Botanic  
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Melbourne

# QUESTIONS ABOUT AUSTRALIAN FUNGAL BIOGEOGRAPHY

- What are the patterns of distribution of fungi within Australia?
- What are the determinants of such patterns?

# BIOGEOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIAN FUNGI

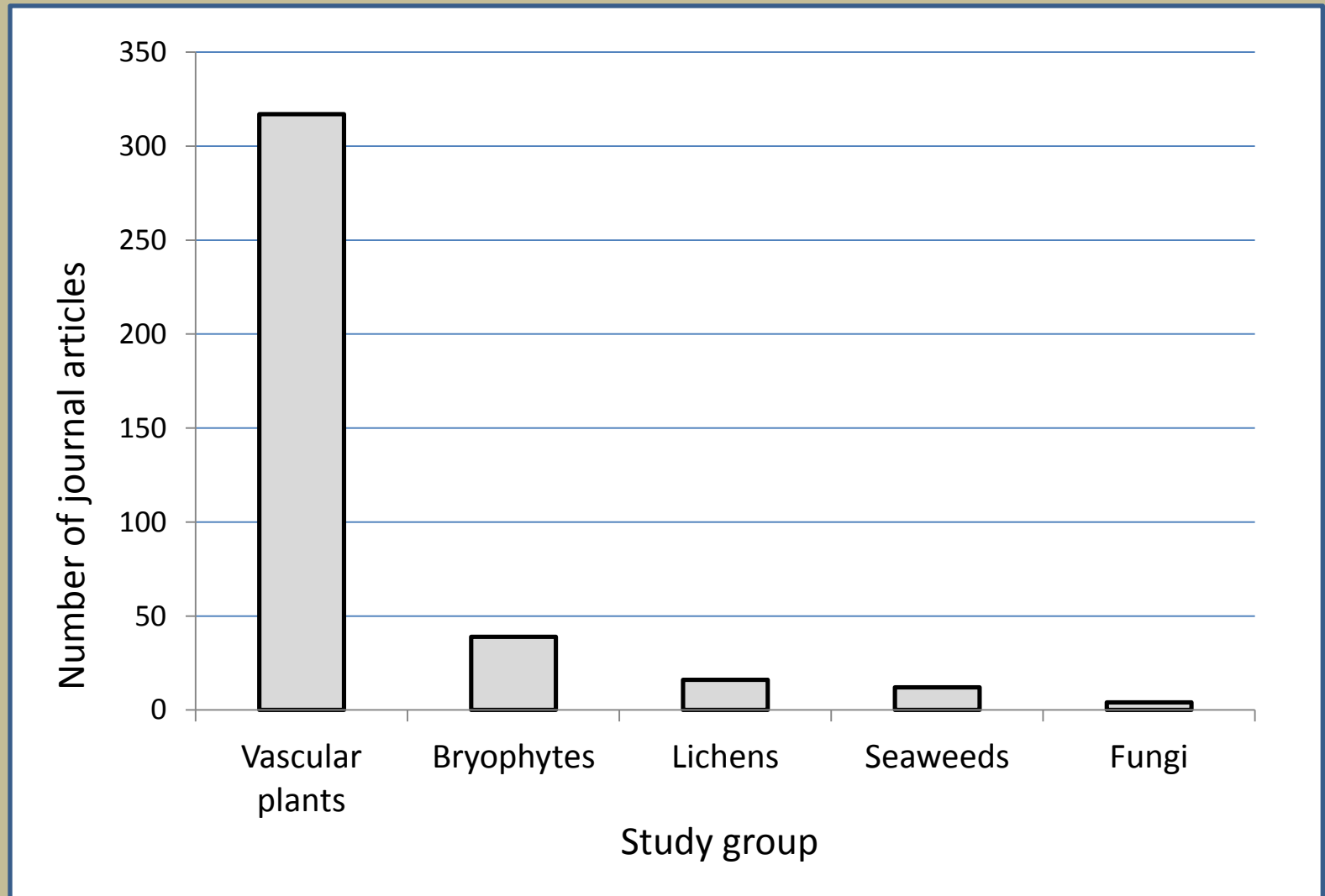
- Reviews by Walker (1983: *Aust. J. Bot. Supp. Ser. 10*; 1996: *Fungi Australia 1A*)
- Focus on microfungi and continental/regional distributions
- E.g. Gondwanan patterns (*Cyttaria*, *Acacia* rusts)



**Acacia rusts**  
• *Atelocauda*  
• *Ravenelia*  
• *Uromycladium*

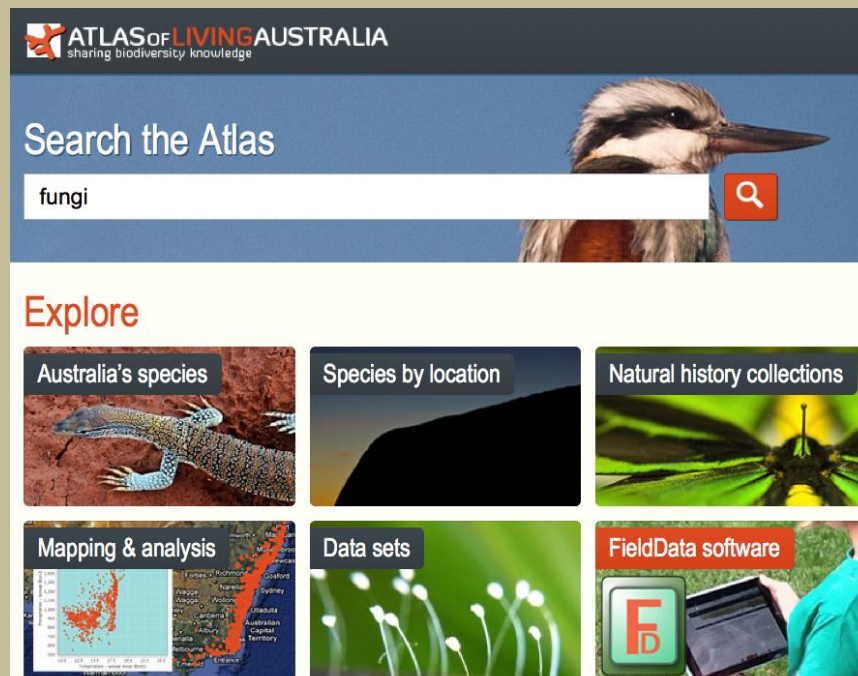
# FUNGI HERBARIUM SPECIMENS UNDER-USED IN BIOGEOGRAPHY

Worldwide 382 studies (1933-2012) using herbarium specimens for study of biogeographical patterns or environmental change



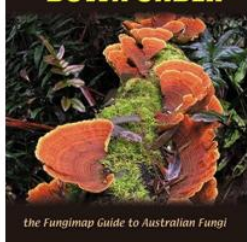
# ALA: UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS TO POINT DISTRIBUTION DATA

- Databasing of herbarium specimens – **Australia's Virtual Herbarium**: c. 160,000 records
- **Fungimap**: >120,000 records, mainly of target species
- Atlas of Living Australia – single portal



Buy the Book!

## FUNGIDOWN UNDER



the Fungimap Guide to Australian Fungi

Home ▸ FDU Online Home ▸ Beech Orange ▸ Cyttaria gunnii

## AGARICS – gills on underside of cap

## Family Tricholomataceae

## Austral Dripping Bonnet

*Mycena austrororida*

On decaying wood in wet forests. This tiny Bonnet has a short, white, very slimy stem which always has gluten accumulating in a thick layer at the base. The translucent-striate, convex cap can be white or brown, but characteristically has minute brownish dot-like scales in the centre.

**Cap** Diameter to 15 mm; convex or with depressed centre; white to brown with minute, brownish dot-like scales in the centre; dry; margin translucent-striate.

**Gills** Adnate to decurrent; widely spaced; white; various lengths.

**Stem** Central; length to 35 mm, diameter 2 mm; narrowing towards apex; white; slimy; thick gluten at base.

**Spore print** White.

**Habit** In groups and clusters; common, fairly widespread.

**Substrate** Decayed logs and branches; saprotrophic.

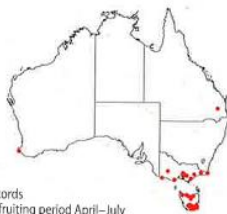
**Habitat** Wet forests.

**Look-alikes** The very rare, white, slimy Bonnet *Mycena yirukensis* is smaller and grows on the ground in leaf litter and bryophytes, not on wood.

cap brown with minute tan-coloured dots

cap convex, translucent-striate  
gluten accumulated at stem base

× 1.5

89 records  
Main fruiting period April–July

This variant of Austral Dripping Bonnet has white caps

46

Basidiomycota

## FUNGIMAP – FOCUS ON TARGET SPECIES

## AGARICS – gills on underside of cap

## Family Tricholomataceae

## Pixie's Parasol

*Mycena interrupta*

On dead wood in wet areas. This tiny, fragile agaric with a translucent blue cap is usually found in small colonies on the sides of large fallen logs and branches. White gills show through the top of the cap as lines. A curved, translucent stem is attached to the substrate by a bluish tufted basal disc.

**Cap** Diameter to 15 mm; convex; blue, slightly darker at centre, fading to pale blue or white; sticky when wet; faintly translucent-striate.

**Gills** Adnate to almost free; widely spaced; white with a blue edge; various lengths.

**Stem** Central; length to 20 mm, diameter to 3 mm; translucent white; dry; basal disc blue, tufted.

**Spore print** White.

**Habit** In small colonies; fairly common.

**Substrate** Sheltered sides of dead, wet, fallen logs and branches of native wood; saprotrophic.

**Habitat** Wet areas of native forests in southern temperate Australia.

**Look-alikes** None; it is the only blue *Mycena*. Blue-coloured *Pinkgills* (*Entoloma* spp., p. 36) have a pink spore print and do not grow on dead wood.



Mature caps of Pixie's Parasols and young deep-blue 'buds'



Pixie's Parasols usually grow on large fallen timber

515 records  
Main fruiting period March–August

Basidiomycota

47

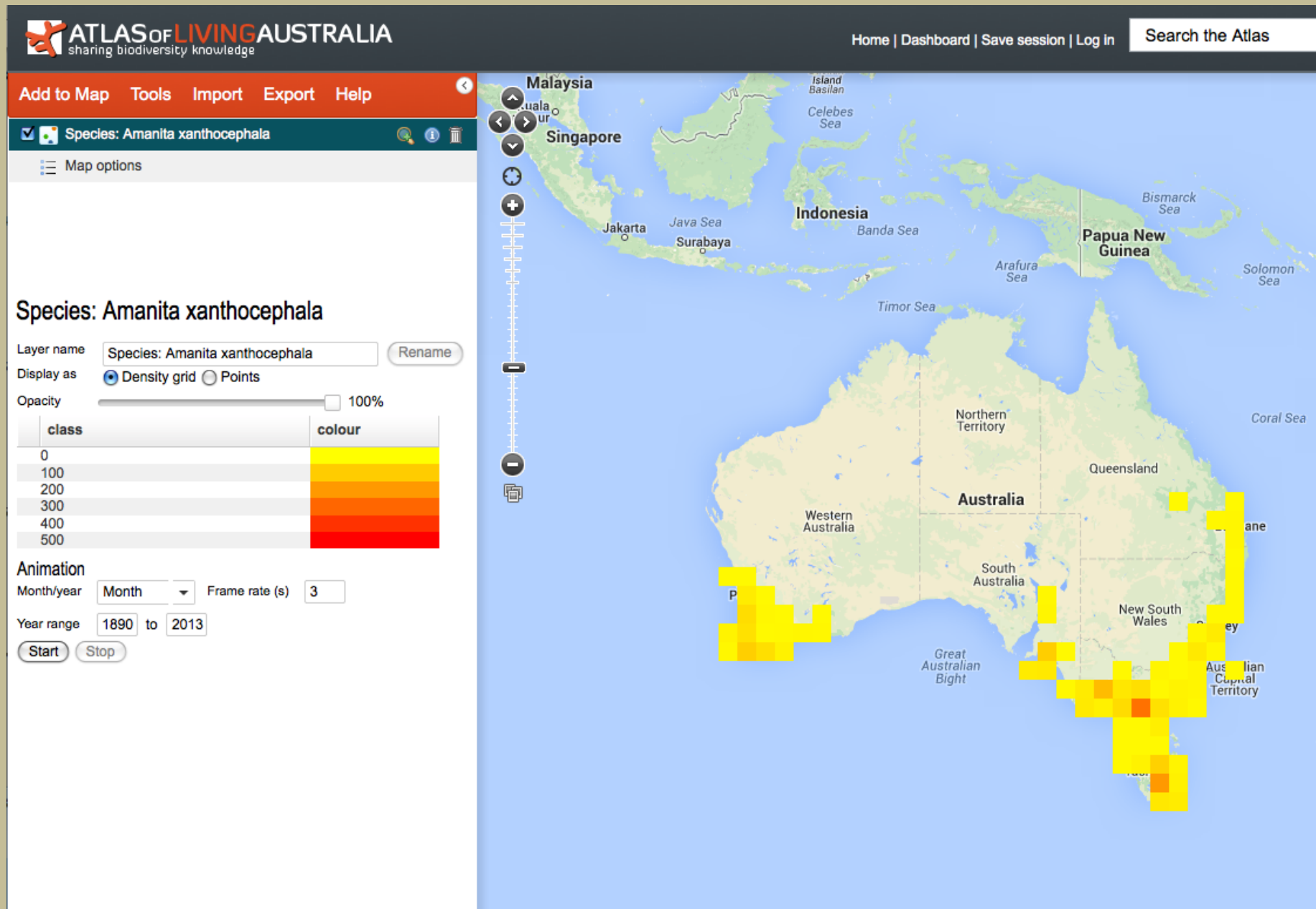




**FUNGIMAP**  
targets

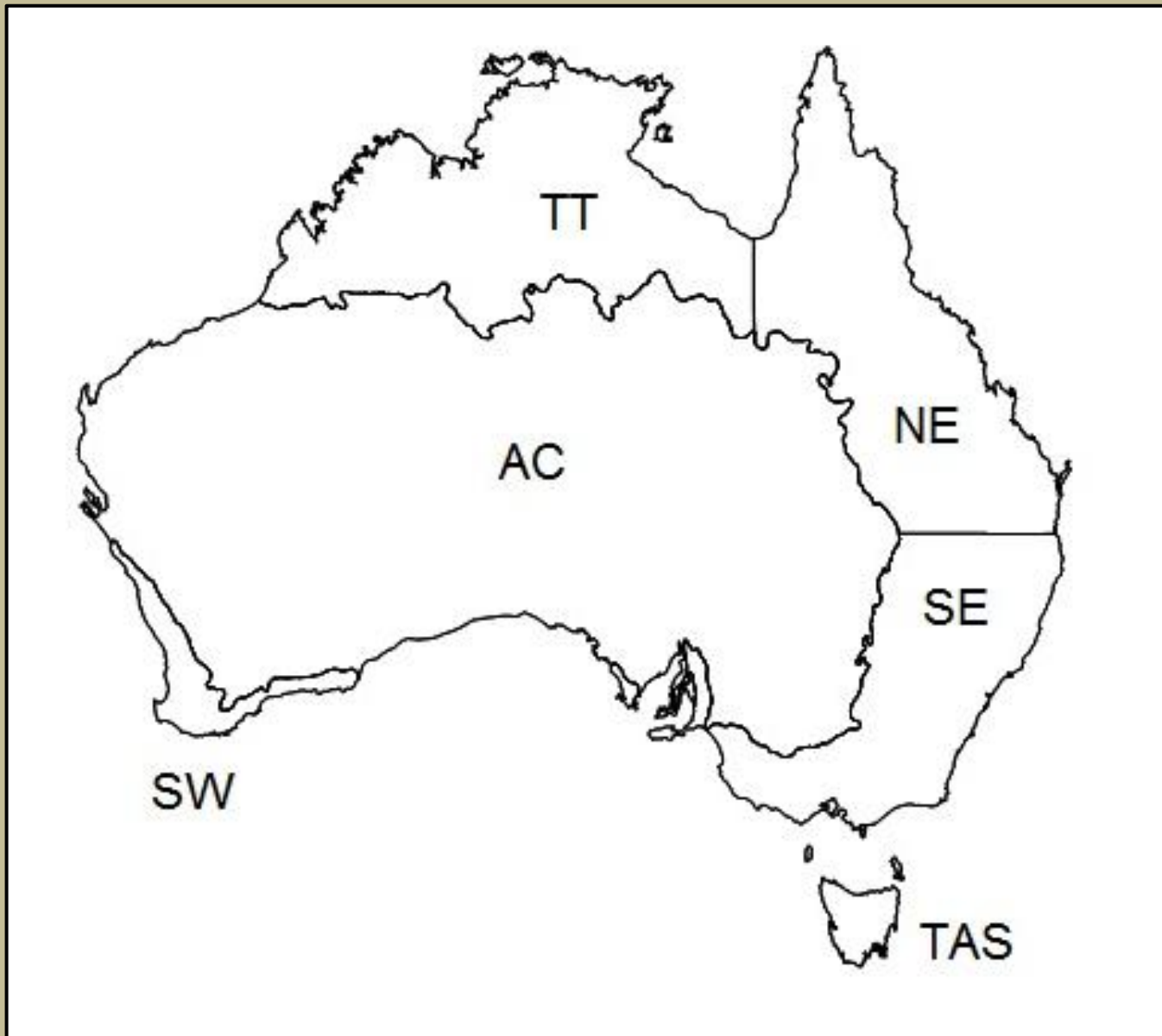


# Amanita xanthocephala – 1793 records

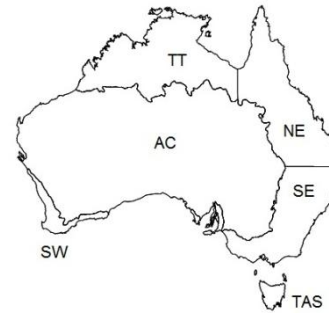




## Broad Mycogeographical Regions



## Proportion of presence in each mycogeographical region



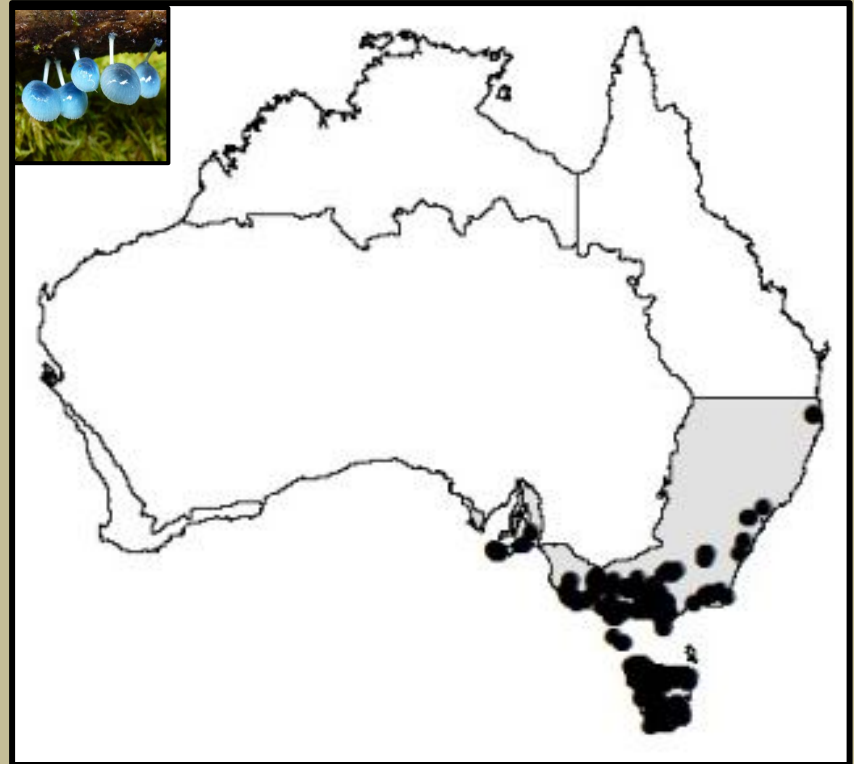
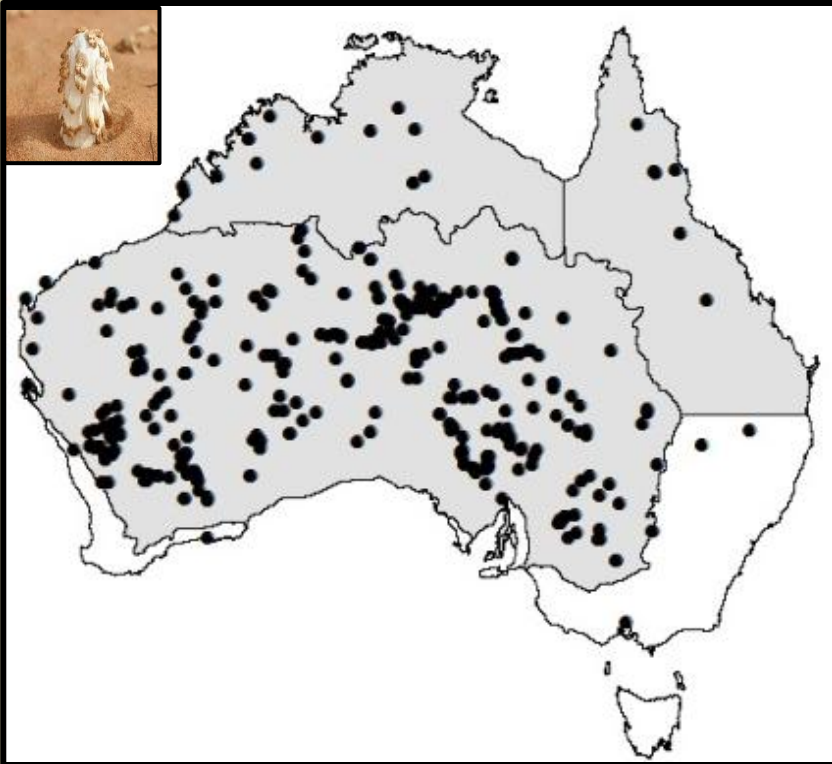
>50 records  
co-ord uncertainty < 10 km  
ArcGIS 9.3

Species	AC	TT	NE	SE	TAS	SW	Records
<i>Mycena interrupta</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.13	79.87	0.00	2280
<i>Podaxis pistillaris</i>	93.91	3.26	1.30	1.09	0.00	0.43	460

# DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS

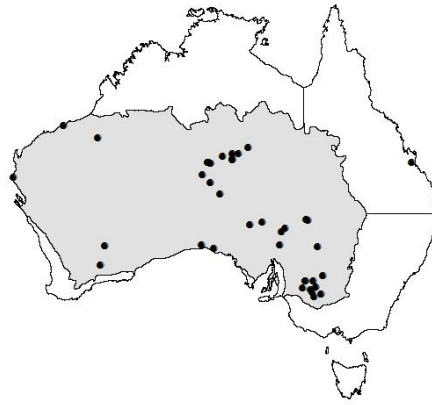
193 species of agarics, puffballs, polypores and false-truffles

Species	AC	TT	NE	SE	TAS	SW	Records
<i>Mycena interrupta</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.13	79.87	0.00	2280
<i>Podaxis pistillaris</i>	93.91	3.26	1.30	1.09	0.00	0.43	460

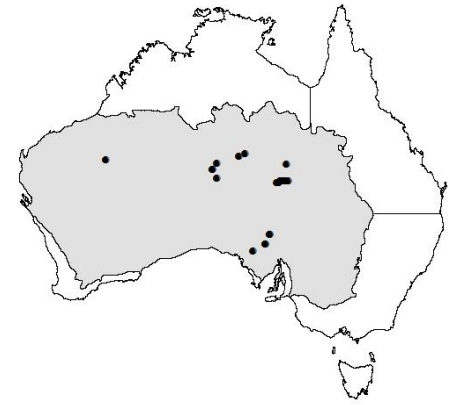




Centre only



*Montagnea arenaria*



*Schizostoma laceratum*



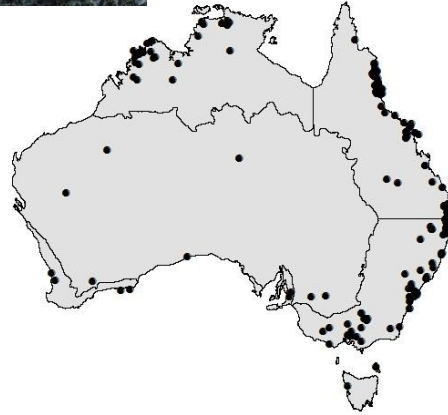
*Podaxis pistillaris*



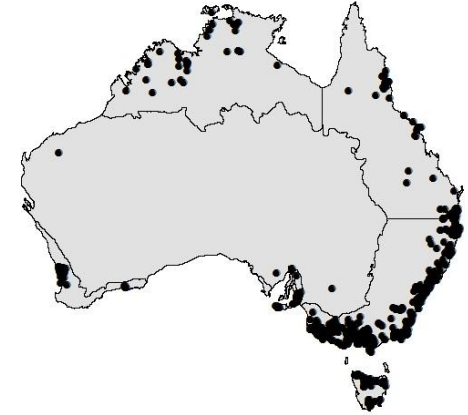
*Battarreia stevenii*

Centre + TT + NE  
Centre + NE + SE

Everywhere

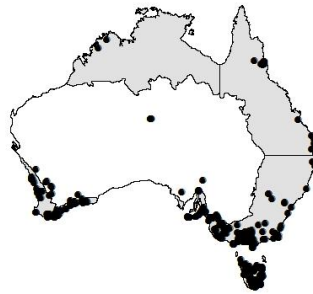


*Pycnoporus sanguineus*

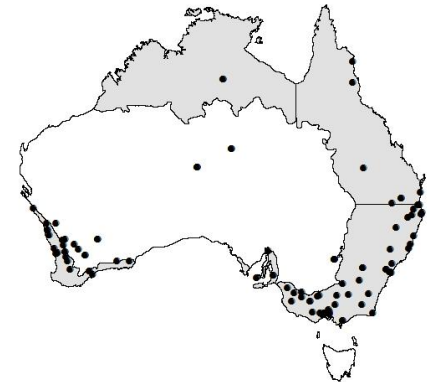


*Schizophyllum commune*

Everywhere  
(not Centre)  
+/- TAS

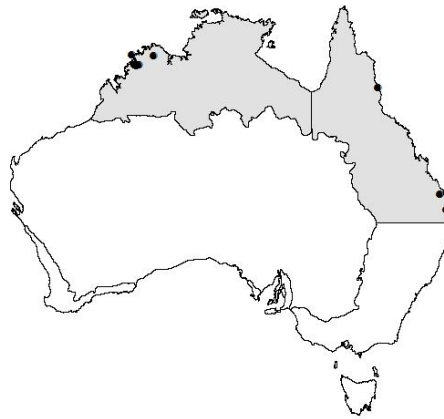


*Coltricia cinnamomea*

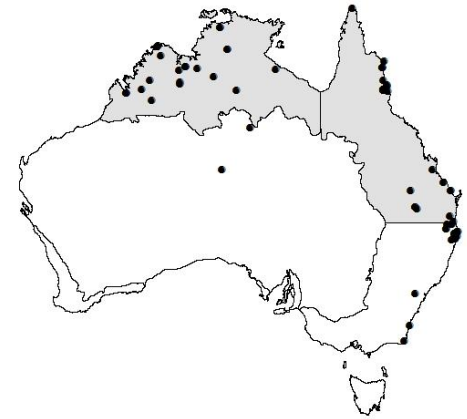


*Phaeotametes decipiens*

TT + NE

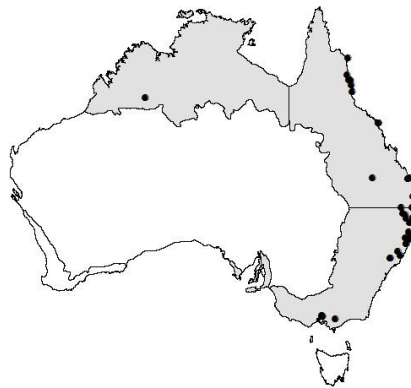


*Gloeophyllum concentricum*

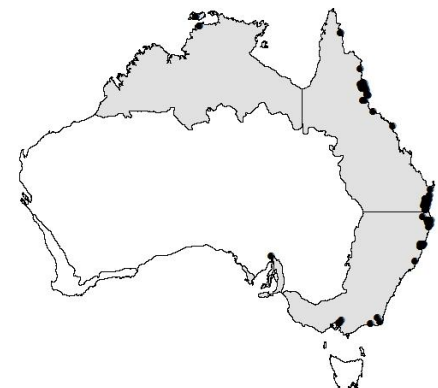


*Trametes mariana*

TT + NE + SE



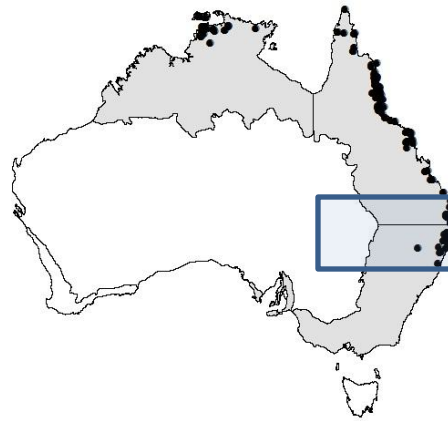
*Fomitopsis feei*



*Coriolopsis polyzona*



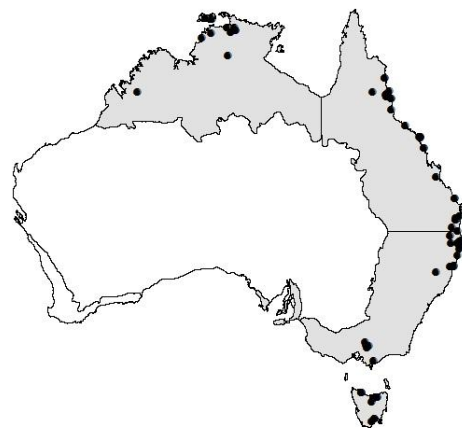
**TT + NE + ?SE**



McLeay/Macpherson Overlap

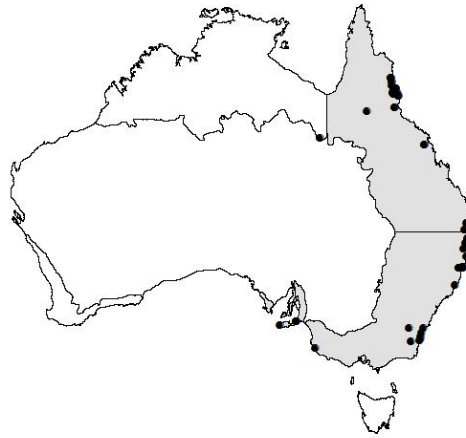
*Microporus xanthopus*

**TT + NW + SE +  
TAS**

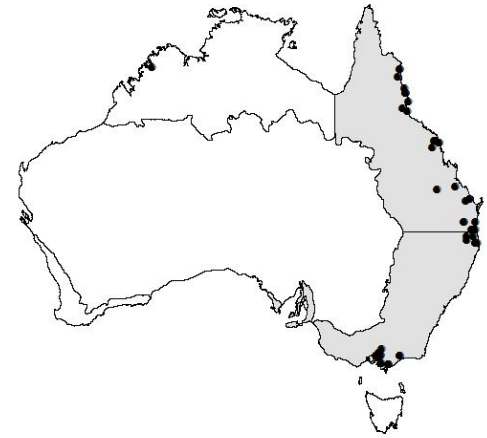


*Flavodon flavus*

NE + SE  
n=4

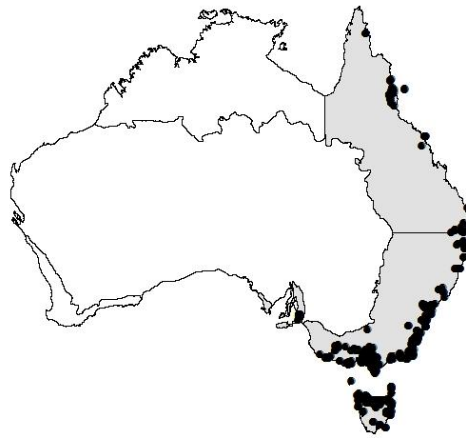


*Microporus affinis*



*Oxyporus cervinogilvus*

NE + SE + TAS  
n=9



*Dictyopanus pusillus*

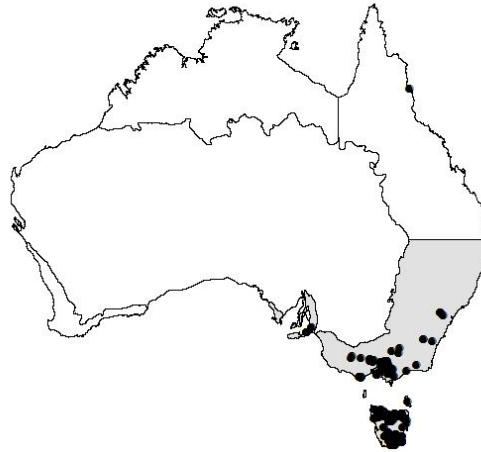


*Mycena leaiana*

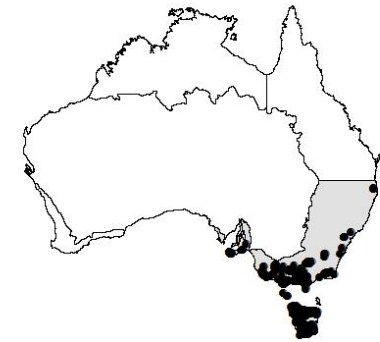
**SE + TAS**  
**n=40**

**SE only n=1**

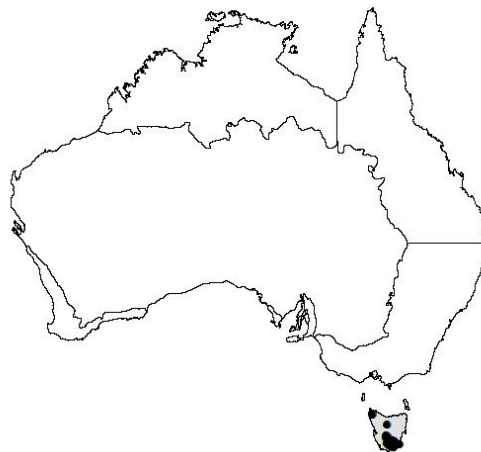
**TAS**  
**n=45**



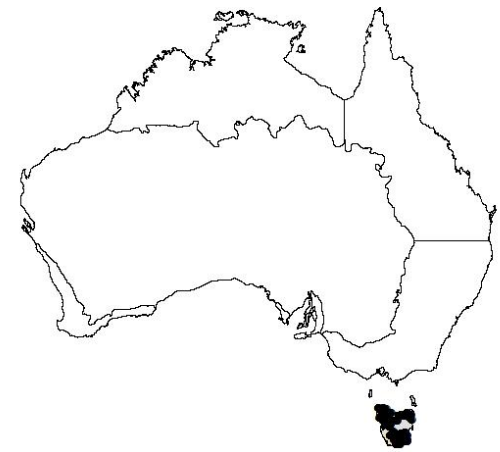
*Marasmiellus affixus*



*Mycena interrupta*



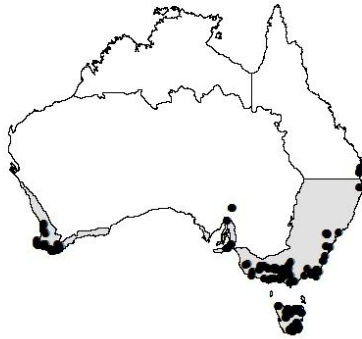
*Cortinarius chrysocopos*



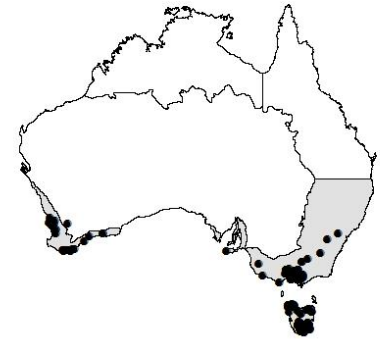
*Entoloma readiae*



WA + TAS+ SE  
n=40

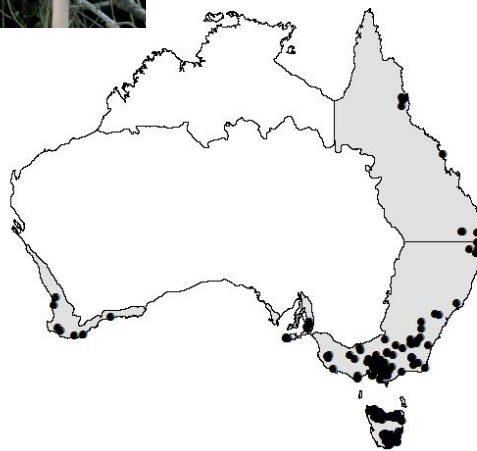


*Cortinarius persplendidus*

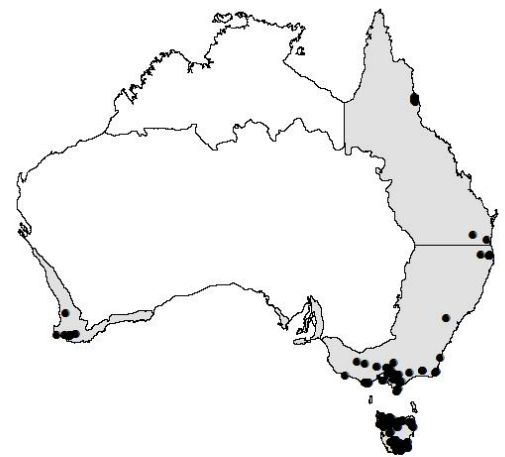


*Gymnopilus allantopus*

WA + TAS + SE + NE  
n=13



*Macrolepiota clelandii*



*Mycena austrororida*

# ISSUES

- Gaps in data [especially TT and wet tropics of NE]
- Geocode errors [maps assist detection]
- Misidentifications
- Local name traditions [different names across range]
- Uptake of taxonomic revisions
- Omission of synonyms [**ALA name service issues**]
- Species delimitation [possible cryptic species, need to base on phylogenetic species]

# Plants

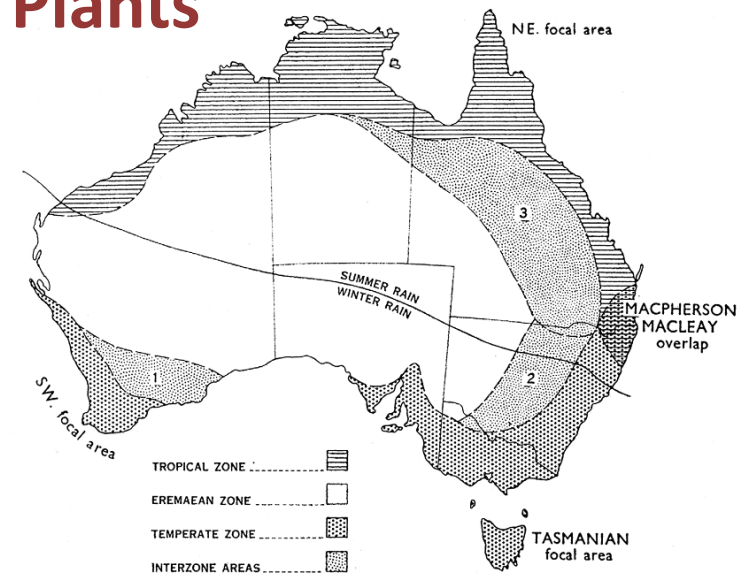
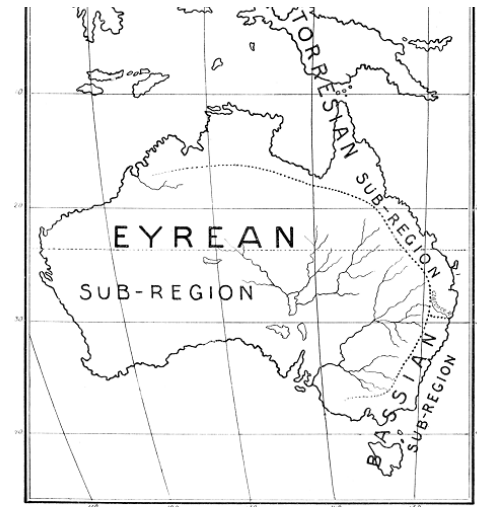


FIGURE 2. Burbridge's zones (Burbridge, 1960, fig. 1). Note the north-south and east-west division. [Reproduced with permission of CSIRO Publishing, Australia.]

# Biogeographic regions of Australia

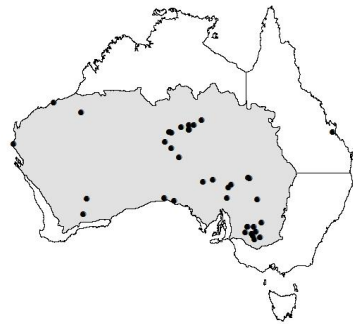
# Animals



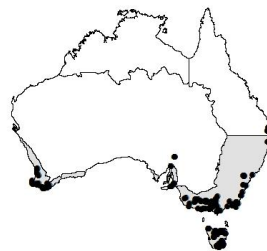
FAUNAL SUB-REGIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN REGION.

FIGURE 4. Spencer's (1896) 'Faunal sub-regions of the Australian region'.

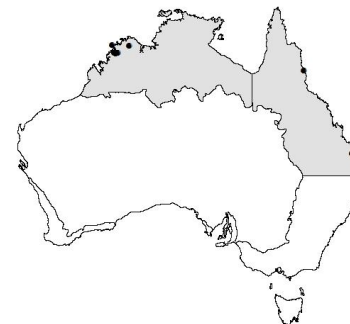
# Fungi



Cunninghamian



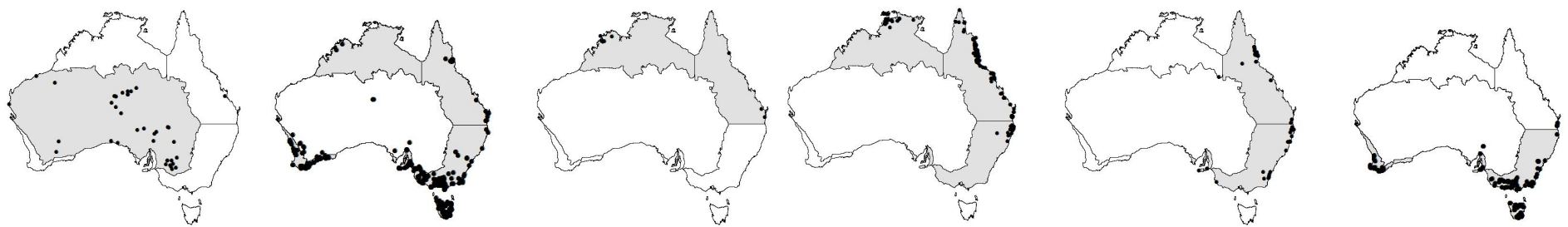
Clelandian



Cribbean

# Mycogeographic regions/areas

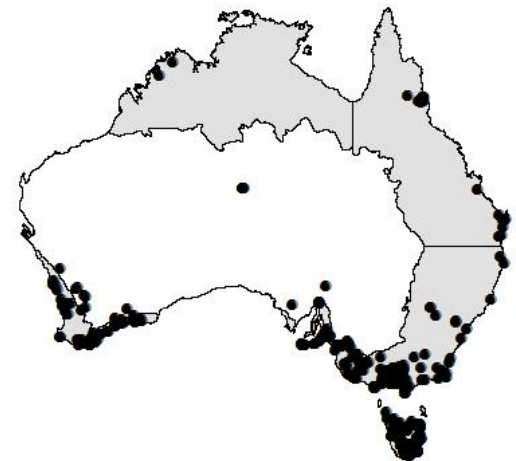
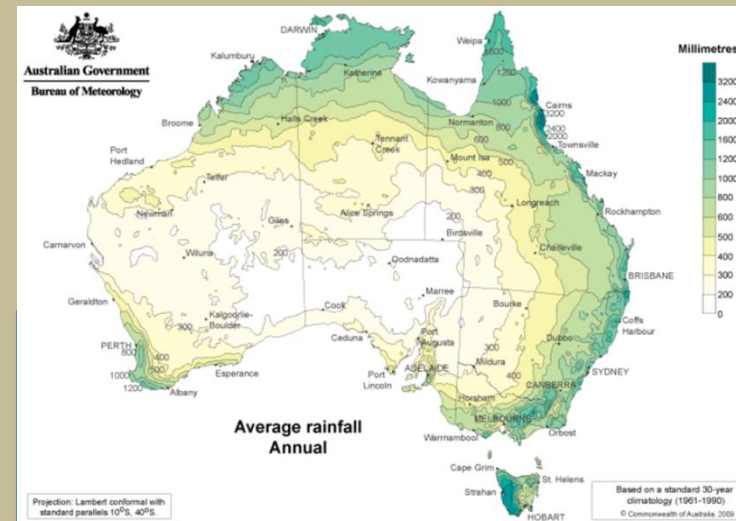
- Most species wide distributions, often spanning E+W or S+N of continent.
- Very few species restricted to one area
- Discrete 'mycogeographic areas' that make up broad distributions [big jig-saw pieces]
- Some species span areas of two regions





# CLIMATE AND DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS

- 400 mm rainfall isohyet important boundary in south
- To the north, same species tend to need higher rainfall
- Distribution patterns not explained by single climate variable

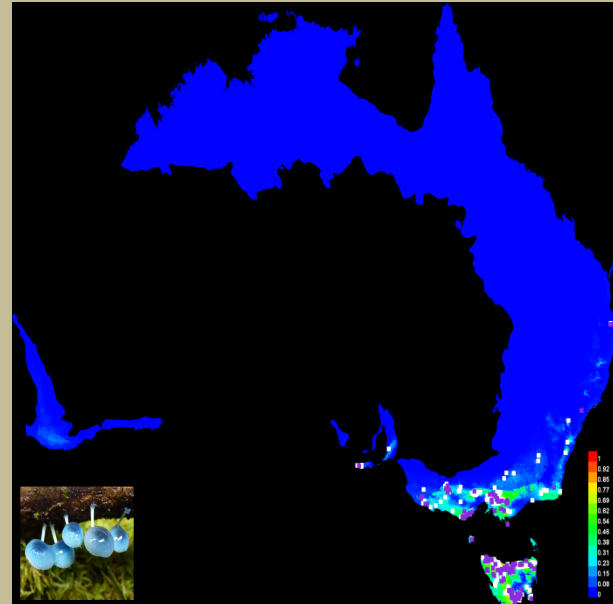
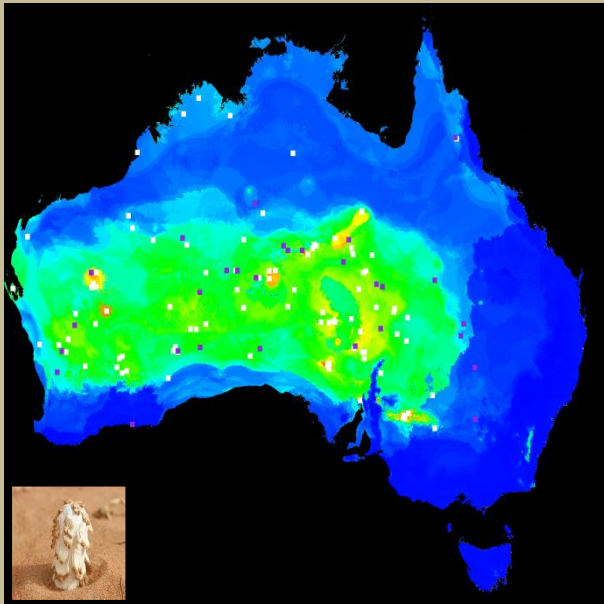


# Environmental Niche Modelling (ENM)

- 78 species
- Coordinate uncertainty  $\leq 1$  km
- Bioclim climate layers 1-19 [resolution  $\sim 1\text{km}^2$ ]



Maxent (ver. 3.3.3)



# Climate Variables

Annual Mean Temperature

Mean Monthly Temperature Range

Isothermality

Temperature Seasonality

Max. Temp. Warmest Month

Min Temp. Coldest Month

Temperature Annual Range

Mean Temp. Wettest Quarter

Mean Temp. Driest Quarter

Mean Temp. Warmest Quarter

Mean Temp. Coldest Quarter

Annual Precipitation

Precipitation of Wettest Month

Precipitation of Driest Month

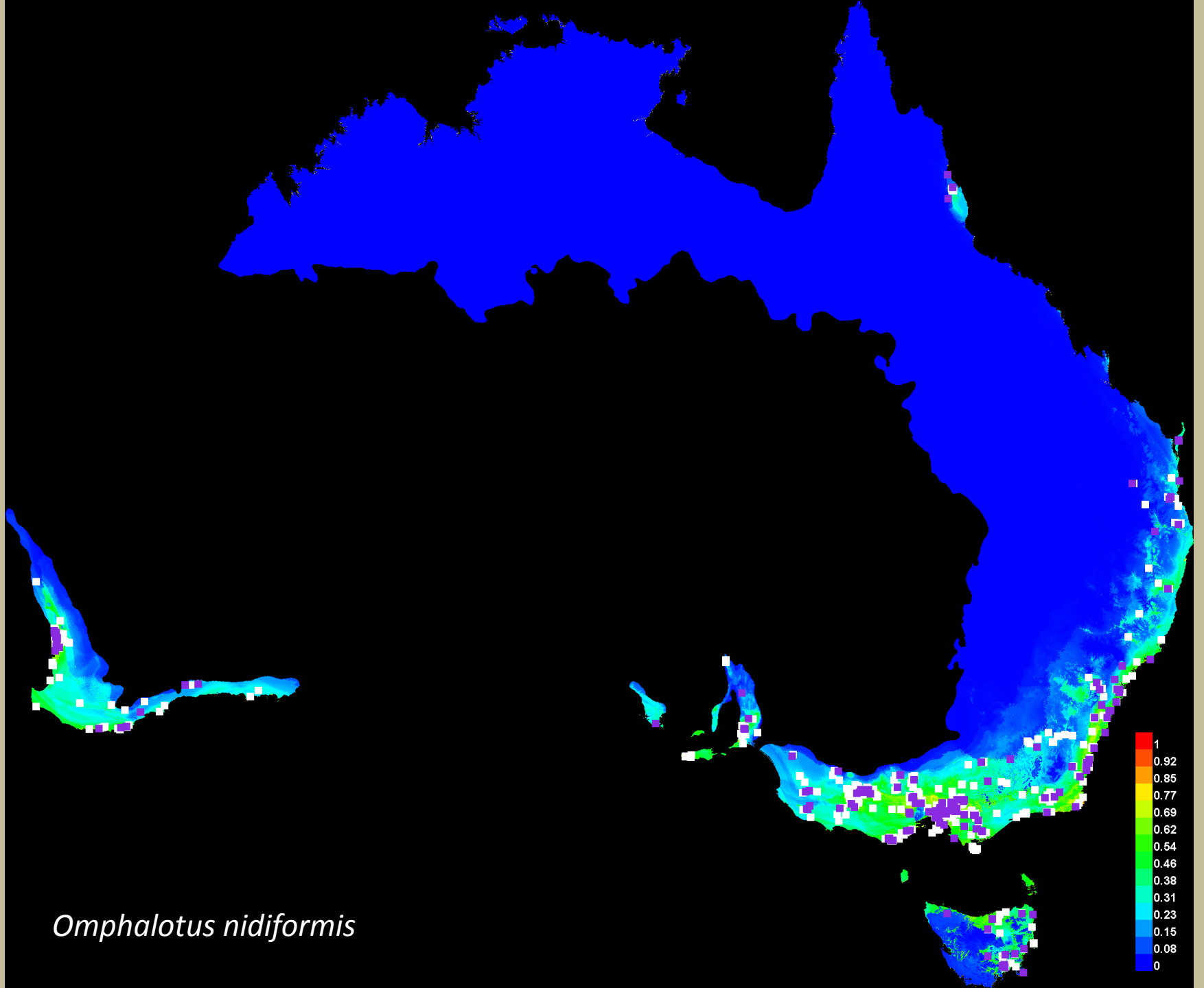
Precipitation Seasonality

Precipitation of Wettest Quarter

Precipitation of Driest Quarter

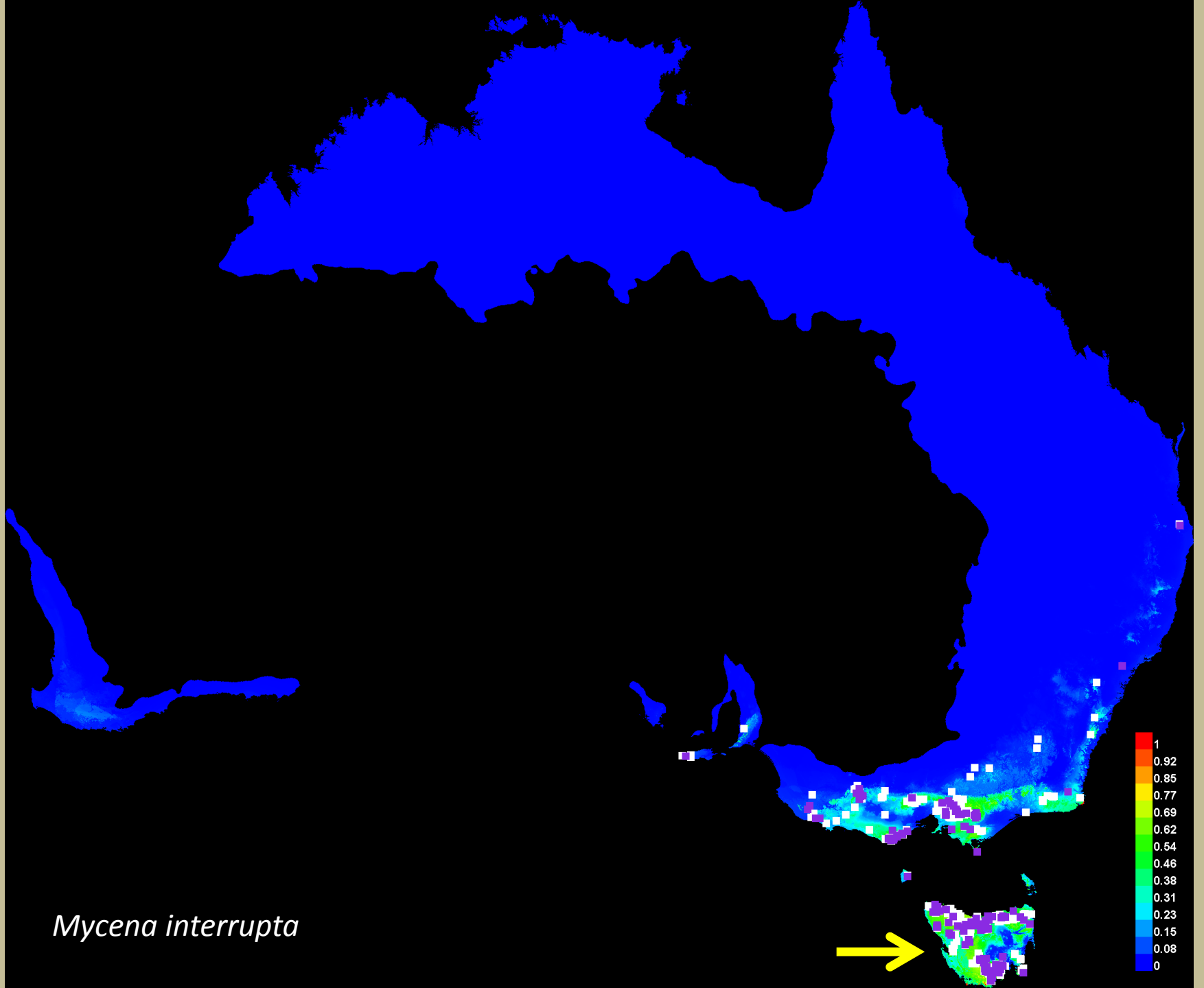
Precipitation of Warmest Quarter

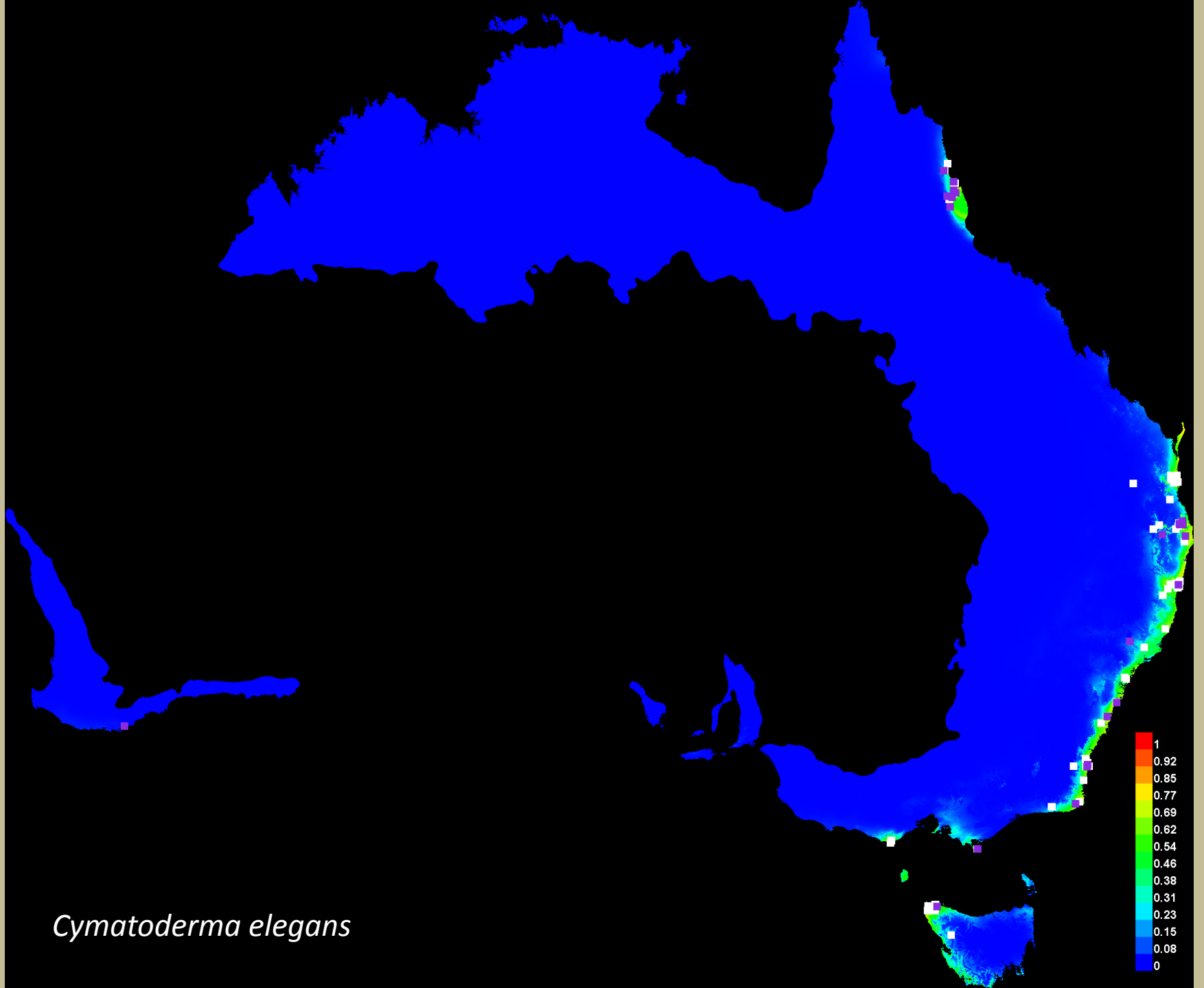
Precipitation of Coldest Quarter



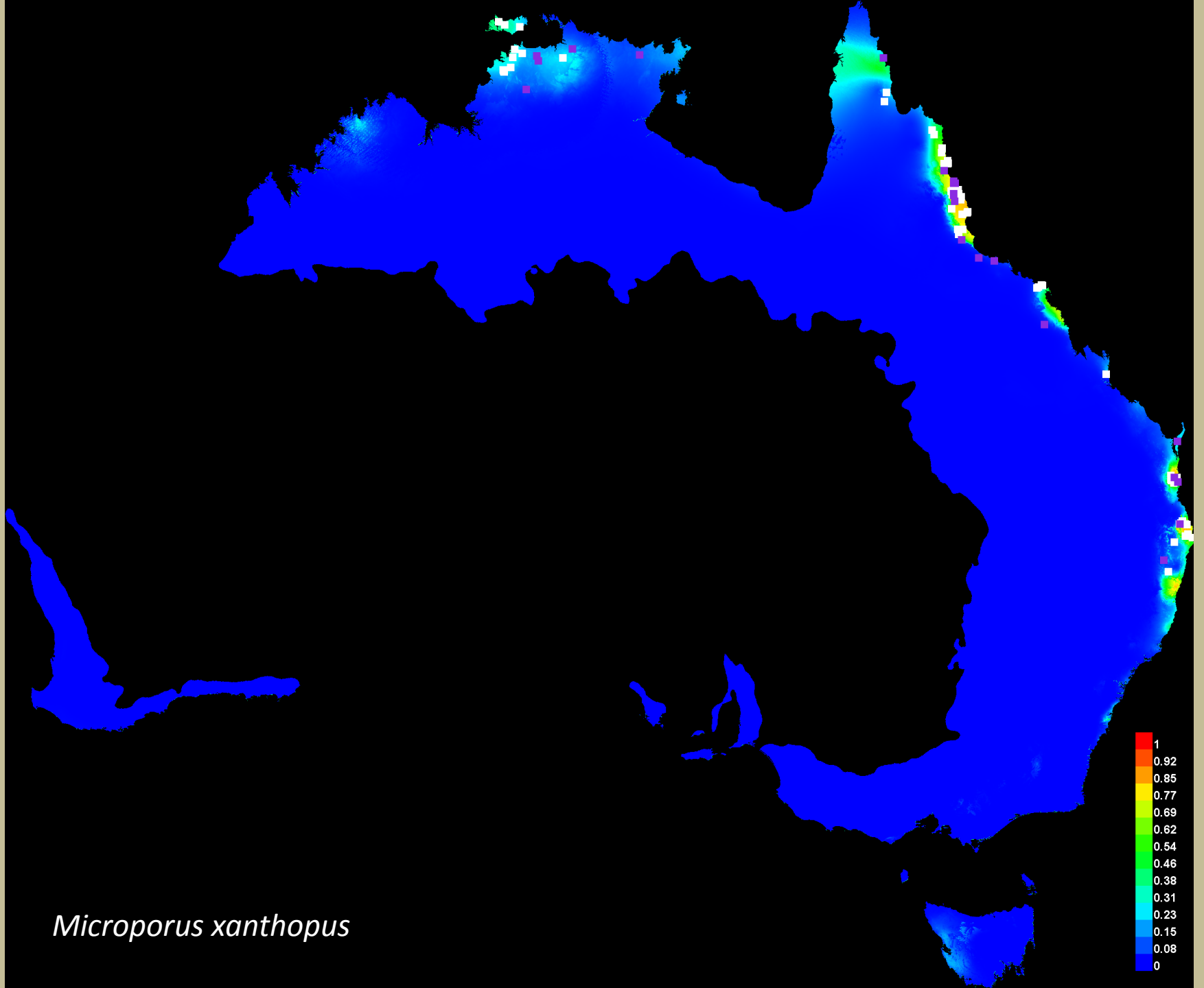
*Omphalotus nidiformis*

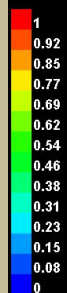
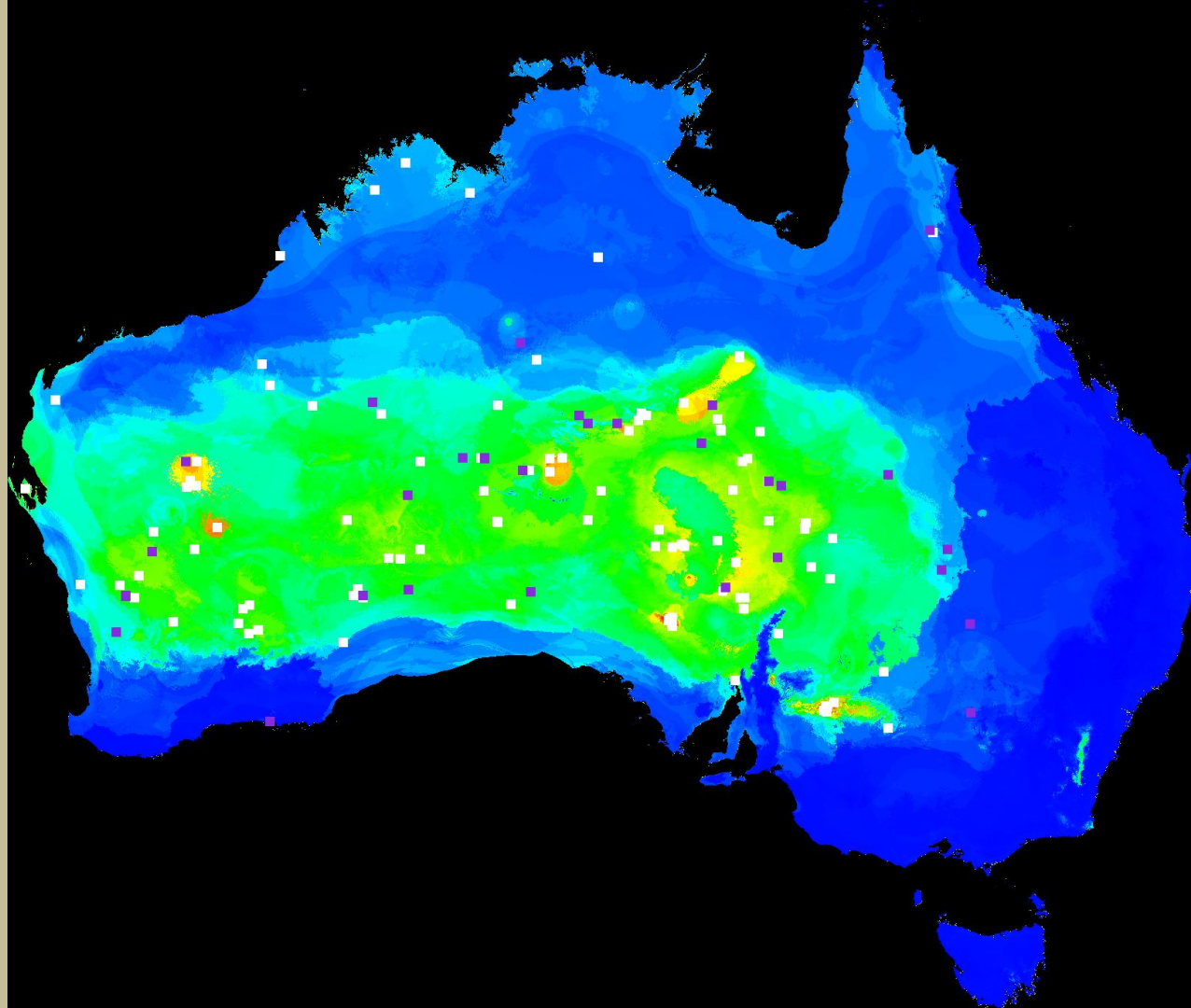






*Cymatoderma elegans*

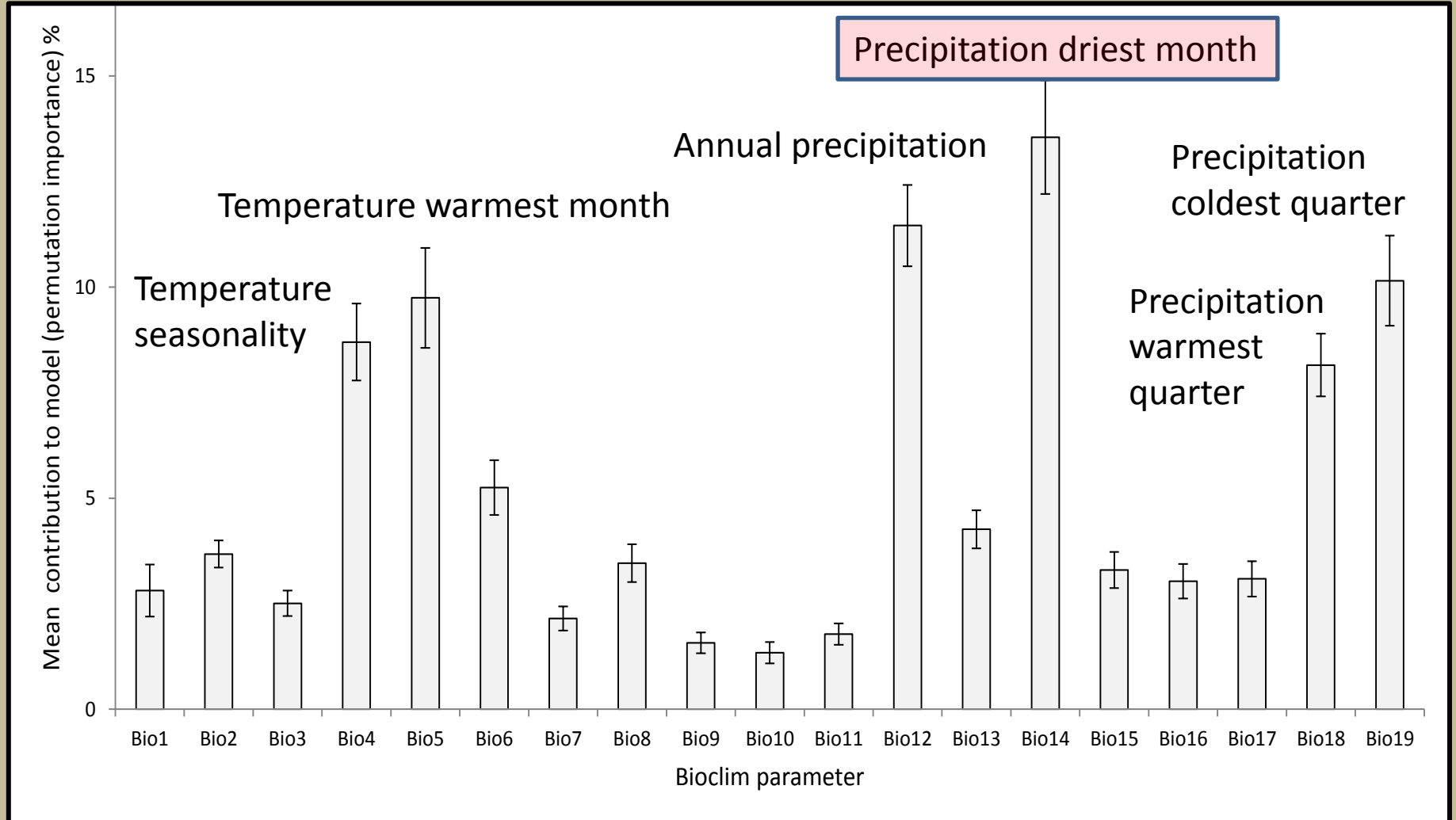




*Podaxis pistillaris*

# Importance of climate parameters to Maxent models

Permutation importance (% contribution) after 500 iterations

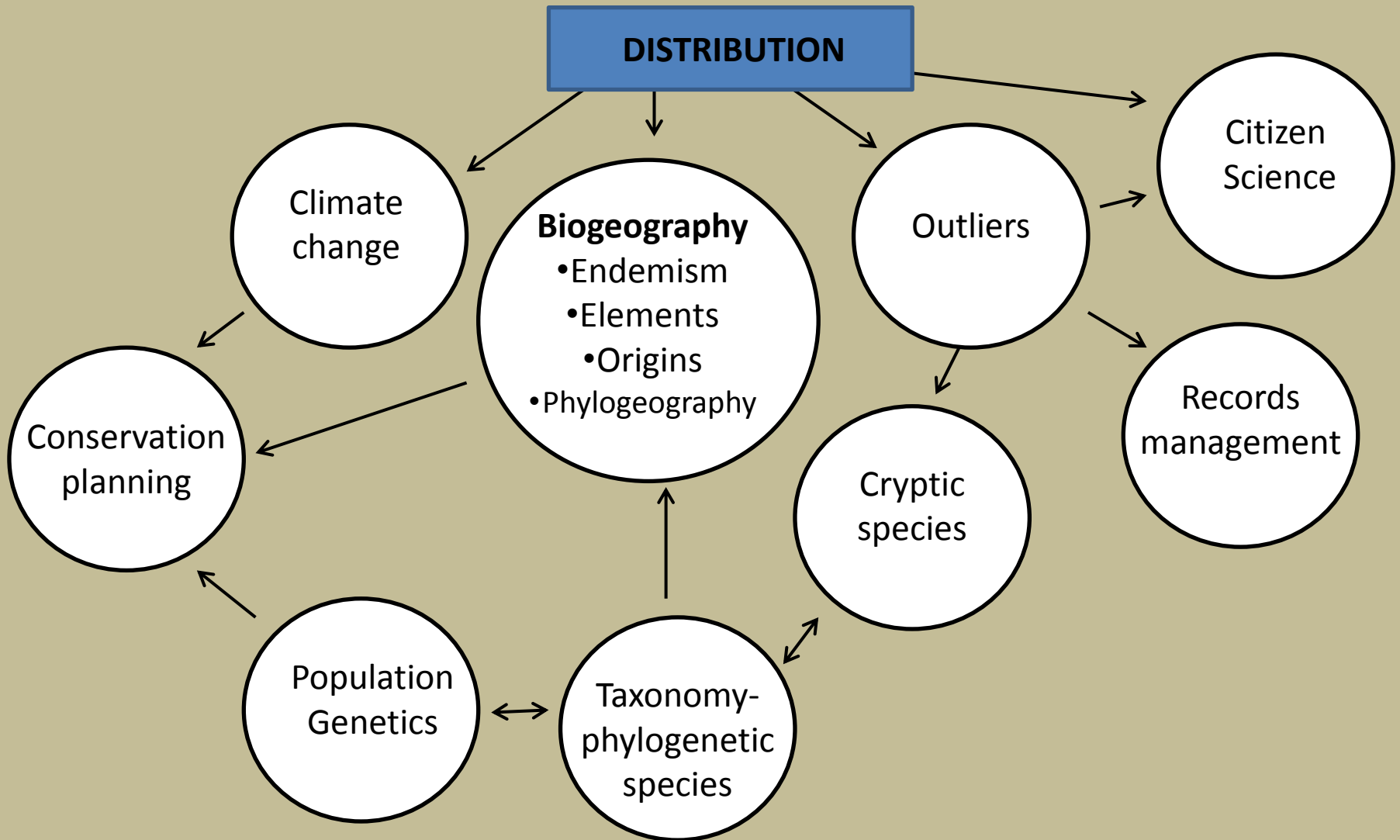




# Conclusions

- Discrete **broad** scale distribution patterns identified
- Niche modelling returned very high model confidences – suggesting **climate** is a strong driver of distribution
- **Dispersal** out to climate limits, subject to habitat availability
- **Mycogeographic provinces** similar to zoological and botanical – but no diverse SW area for fungi, and many span MM overlap

# Future Directions



# Acknowledgements

Photographs: Paul George, Geoff Lay, Kevin Thiele

Cybec Foundation (Grant Harris, RBG Melbourne  
Summer Student)

Fungimappers – for making the observations

ALA – for mobilising the data