

# EcoGenetics:

## Simulate species with complex life cycles

Alexandre H. Hirzel \*, Julie Jaquiéry, Thomas Broquet and Nicolas Perrin

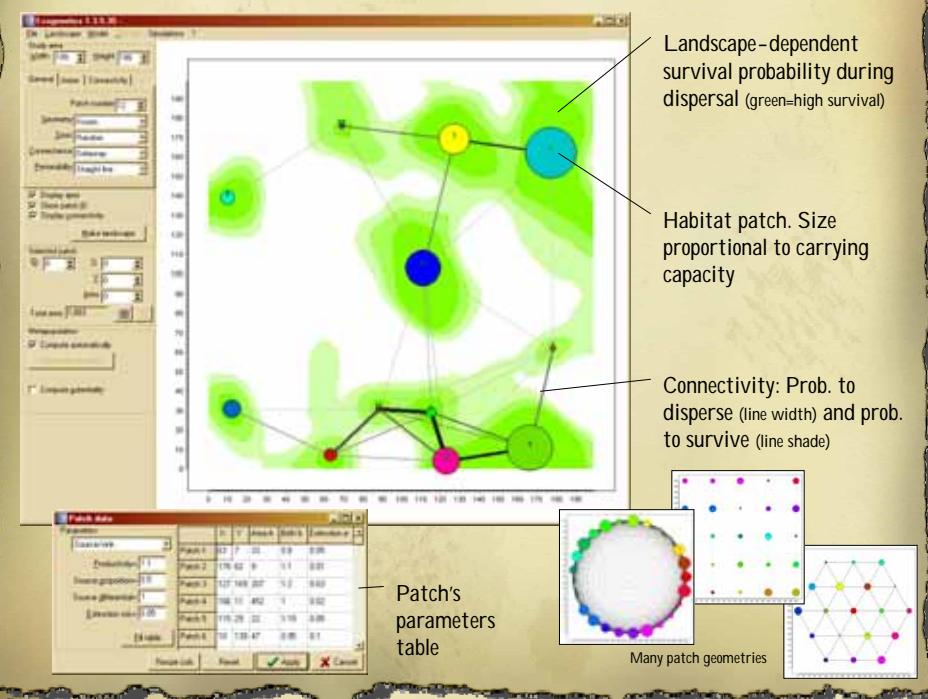
\*E-mail: Alexandre.Hirzel@unil.ch

### I. Purposes

- Simulating **Population Dynamics** or **Population Genetics** within a **spatially-explicit** metapopulation, by means of an **Individual-Based Model**
- Offering an **user-friendly interface** to define the species' life-cycle, the spatial settings and **sensitivity-analysis** parameters.

### III. Spatial Structure

The spatial interface allows defining the **habitat patches'** coordinates, carrying capacity, growth rate, and extinction risk, along with the **resistance to dispersal** of the surrounding environment.



### V. Genetics

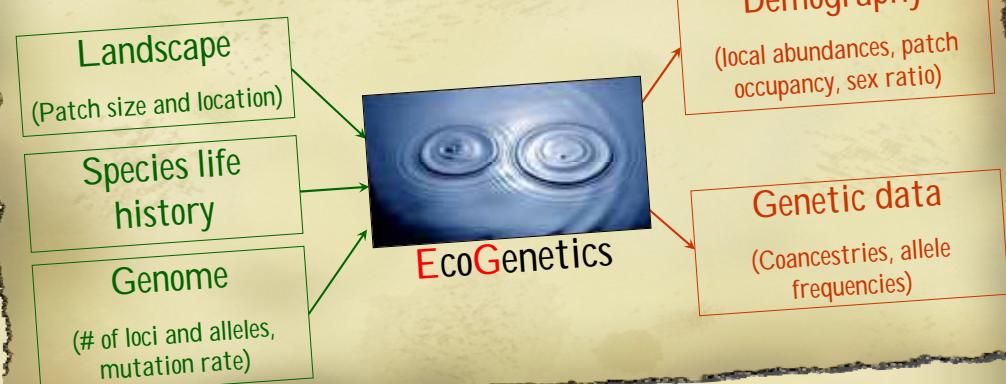
- Clonal, hermaphrodite or sexuate mating system
- Neutral genetics** (e.g. microsatellites)
- Up to **8 loci**, with up to **256 alleles**
- KAM and stepwise **mutations**
- Nuclear, mitochondrial, X- and Y-chromosome genomes
- Separate sampling of juveniles and adults
- Outputs readable by FStat and GenePop

### VI. Sensitivity Analysis

The **Batch Generator** allows one to vary factorially any combination of parameters.



### II. Input and Output



### IV. Life-Cycle

The life cycle is defined as a sequence of **Events**:

#### Simple Events

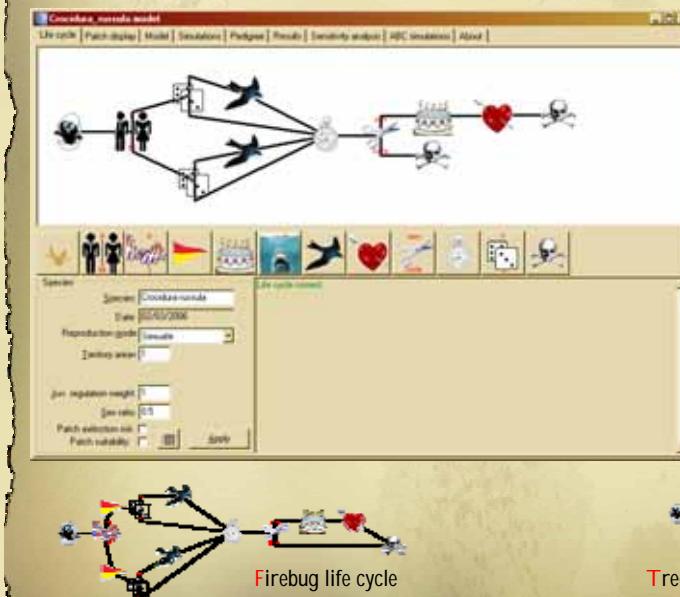
- Birth
- Survival
- Dispersal
- Aging (goes to the next life stage)
- Reproduction (density-dependent or not)
- Death

#### Branching Events

- Sex-dependence
- Density-dependence (Regulation)
- Gene-dependence (for mendelian selection)
- Random branching

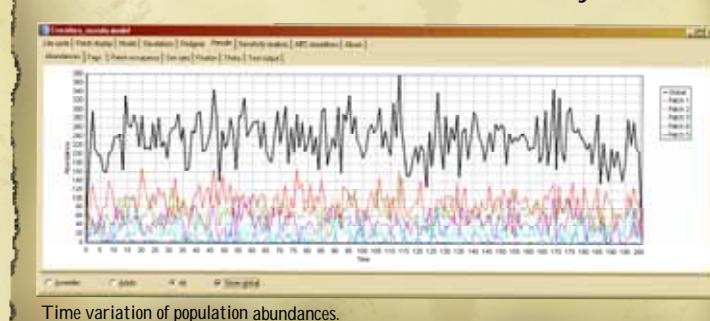
#### Special Events

- Synchronisation (wait for other individuals to reach the same stage)
- Tag (to compute tag-dependent statistics)



### VII. Outputs

- Graphic output: Abundances, occupancy, sex ratio, coancestries ( $F$ , theta and alpha).
- Batch (or sensitivity analysis) produces tabulated text files for statistical analyses.



### VIII. Potential Uses

- Population Viability Analyses
- Customised "null models" to compare real data to.
- "What-if" scenarios (patch removal, reduced or enhanced connectivity, bottlenecks, management strategies, etc.)
- Simulate data to test analytical tools
- Testing hypotheses of evolutionary genomics
- Teaching in population dynamics and genetics

For collaborations, please contact A. Hirzel, at  
Alexandre.Hirzel@unil.ch