

Assessing floristic representativeness in the protected areas national system of Chile: are vegetation types a good surrogate for plant species?

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Volumen: 43

Número: 3

Páginas: 199-207

DOI: 10.1017/S0376892916000060

Fecha de publicación: SEP 2016

[Ver información de revista](#)

Resumen

Conservation planning relies heavily on representativeness patterns. In Chile, this has not been assessed at the species level. This study evaluates floristic representativeness in the National System of Protected Areas (SNASPE). Species rarefaction and non-parametric estimators were used to extrapolate total representativeness. Given that conservation planning in Chile is mainly based on protecting vegetation types, the effectiveness of using vegetation types as a surrogate of plant species was evaluated based on richness and complementarity. The study found available information for 42% of the 96 protected areas of continental Chile. According to this information the SNASPE protects at least 48% of the native vascular flora. The southern area protects the largest number of species, most of which are non-endemic natives. The largest number of endemic protected species was found in the central-northern area. The SNASPE in its full range is projected to protect 64% of the vascular flora of Chile. Richness and complementarity surrogacy analyses showed weak effectiveness of vegetation types as a surrogate of plant species, although complementarity performed slightly better than richness. Surrogacy effectiveness was lower for endemic species, probably due to their narrow distributions that are more easily missed when vegetation types are considered instead.

Palabras clave

Palabras clave de autor: [biodiversity surrogates](#); [endemism](#); [plant species conservation](#); [SNASPE](#); [surrogacy](#); [systematic conservation planning](#)

KeyWords Plus: [CONSERVATION](#); [BIODIVERSITY](#); [DIVERSITY](#); [FAMILIES](#)

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Editorial

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Categorías / Clasificación

Áreas de investigación: Biodiversity & Conservation; Environmental Sciences & Ecology

Categorías de Web of Science: Biodiversity Conservation; Environmental Sciences

Información del documento

Tipo de documento: Article

Idioma: English

Número de acceso: **WOS:000381271600001**

ISSN: 0376-8929

eISSN: 1469-4387

Información de la revista

- Impact Factor: [Journal Citation Reports®](#)

Otra información

Número IDS: DT1WA

Referencias citadas en la Colección principal de Web of Science: **42**

Veces citado en la Colección principal de Web of Science: **0**