1	
2	Incorporating seed fate into plant-frugivore networks increases
3	interaction diversity across plant regeneration stages
4	
5	
6	ISABEL DONOSO*, DANIEL GARCÍA, JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ-PÉREZ, AND
7	DANIEL MARTÍNEZ
8	Depto. Biología de Organismos y Sistemas, Universidad de Oviedo, and Unidad Mixta
9	de Investigación en Biodiversidad (UMIB, CSIC-Uo-PA), E-33071 Oviedo, Spain
10	* Corresponding author: <u>idonoso002@gmail.com</u>
11	

13 ABSTRACT

14 Plant-animal mutualistic interactions, such as pollination and seed dispersal, affect 15 ecosystem functioning by driving plant population dynamics. However, little is known 16 of how the diversity of interactions in these mutualistic networks determines plant 17 regeneration dynamics. To fill this gap, interaction networks should not only account 18 for the number of seeds dispersed by animals, but also for seed fate after dispersal. 19 Here, we compare plant-animal networks at both the seed dispersal and seedling 20 recruitment stage to evaluate how interaction diversity, represented by different network 21 metrics, changes throughout the process of plant regeneration. We focused on a system 22 with six species of frugivorous birds and three species of fleshy-fruited trees in the 23 temperate secondary forest of the Cantabrian Range (N Iberian Peninsula). We 24 considered two plant cohorts corresponding to two fruiting years showing strong 25 differences in fruit and frugivore abundance. Seed dispersal interactions were estimated 26 from a spatially-explicit, field-validated model predicting tree and bird species-specific 27 seed deposition in different microhabitats. These interactions were further transformed 28 into interactions at the seedling recruitment stage by accounting for plant- and 29 microhabitat-specific seed fates estimated from field sampling. We found that network 30 interaction diversity varied across plant regeneration stages and cohorts, both in terms 31 of the evenness and the number of paired interactions. Tree-bird interactions were more 32 evenly distributed across species pairs at the recruitment stage than at the seed 33 deposition stage, although some interactions disappeared in the seed-to-seedling 34 transition for one plant cohort. The variations in interaction diversity were explained by 35 between-plant differences in post-dispersal seed fate and in inter-annual fruit 36 production, rather than by differences between frugivores in seed deposition patterns.

- 37 These results highlight the need for integrating plant traits and disperser quality to
- 38 predict the functional outcome of plant-animal mutualistic networks.

39 INTRODUCTION

40 Plant-animal mutualistic networks (e.g. flowering plants and pollinators; fruiting plants 41 and frugivores providing seed dispersal) are assumed to affect ecosystem functioning by 42 controlling vegetation dynamics (Blütghen and Klein 2011, Schleuning et al. 2015). 43 Despite the recent interest in the structure of such networks (e.g. Bascompte and 44 Jordano 2007, Schleuning et al. 2012), we are still far from understanding their 45 functional effects. This is because the quantitative descriptions provided by interaction 46 frequencies (e.g. number of pollen grains or seeds transported by the animals) may tell 47 little about the concomitant demographic expectancies of animals and plants (but see 48 Vázquez et al. 2007, Vázquez et al. 2012). This constraint is especially challenging in 49 plant-frugivore networks, where post-dispersal seed fate filters any quantitative effect of 50 frugivores on plants (Wang and Smith 2002, Schupp et al. 2010). Seed fate may be 51 under the control of animals, and frugivore species may differ in their quality as 52 dispersers because, for example, they differentially modify seed germination due to gut 53 passage, or they drop seeds in microhabitats with different conditions for seed and 54 seedling survival (Schupp et al. 2010, Mello et al. 2014). In fact, these qualitative 55 differences may actually equalize the role of frugivores in interactions networks, for 56 example, when a rare disperser species drops seeds in microhabitats optimal for plant 57 recruitment (Carlo and Yang 2011, Schleuning et al. 2015). Nevertheless, the variability 58 in plant traits affecting seed fate may also drive the functional prominence of plants in 59 networks. For example, plants consumed in small quantities by frugivores but with high 60 probabilities of survival after dispersal (e.g. due to their seed size, low susceptibility to 61 predators or shade tolerance; García et al. 2005a, Xiao et al. 2015), will be more 62 represented in networks, irrespective of the disperser. In sum, we could expect changes 63 in the frequencies of each frugivore and plant species from seed dispersal to recruitment

64 stages when accounting for seed fate which, in turn, could be determined by both 65 disperser quality and plant traits. When seen as a whole, for example by means of interaction-diversity network metrics (e.g. Plein et al 2013; Chama et al. 2013), these 66 67 global changes in interaction frequencies may be highly informative regarding the final 68 distribution of the effects of frugivores on plant communities. Nevertheless, the 69 prevalence and the mechanisms of changes in interaction diversity across plant 70 regeneration stages remain empirically undemonstrated (but see Schleuning et al. 2015; 71 for a conceptual model).

72 Here, we focus on the plant-frugivore system composed of three fleshy-fruited 73 tree species and six avian seed dispersers in the temperate forest of the Cantabrian 74 Range (N Iberian Peninsula). This assemblage is suitable for evaluating changes in 75 seed-dispersal networks because the plants differ in their post-dispersal seed fate (e.g. 76 susceptibility to seed predators, García et al. 2005a), and dispersers are expected to 77 differ in quality proved that they differed in spatial behaviors (García et al. 2013, 78 Morales et al. 2013). Our general objective was to assess the global patterns of plant 79 recruitment by evaluating the structure of plant-frugivore networks after incorporating 80 plant demography (i.e. seed and seedling fate). We first estimated the seed deposition of 81 fleshy-fruited trees by bird species, in different microhabitats, as predicted by a 82 spatially-explicit, field-validated mechanistic model. We assumed that the quality of 83 seed dispersers was mostly determined by the deposition microhabitat. Then, we 84 transformed seed deposition into seedling recruitment by accounting for species and 85 microhabitat-specific seed fate, estimated from field sampling. Specifically, we 86 compared the structure of networks across the seed dispersal and the seedling 87 recruitment stages, by means of metrics representing interaction diversity. Given that 88 the study system can show strong inter-annual differences in the abundance of both

birds and fruits (García et al. 2013), we also compare the networks from two years,

90 representing two different plant demographic cohorts, as well as two landscape

91 scenarios of fruit availability.

92

93 MATERIAL AND METHODS

94 Study system

95 This study is focused on a plant-frugivore system composed of fleshy-fruited trees and 96 birds in the temperate secondary forest of the Cantabrian Range (northern Iberian 97 Peninsula). This is a common habitat showing low cover and a high degree of 98 fragmentation due to anthropic pressure (García et al. 2005b). It is dominated by 99 hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*), 100 which are the tree species selected for study. Their fruits are sugar-rich red berries 101 (arillated seeds in the case of yew); they present similar morphology, size and coloring 102 and contain either a single seed (hawthorn, yew) or 1-4 seeds (holly). The three tree 103 species ripe in autumn (September to November).

104 The main seed dispersers of these trees are thrushes: blackbird (Turdus merula), 105 song thrush (T. philomelos), mistle thrush (T. viscivorus), fieldfare (T. pilaris), redwing 106 (T. iliacus) and ring-ouzel (T. torquatus). All these thrushes are mostly frugivores 107 during fall and winter, and show a non-selective diet (i.e. the consumption of the 108 fruiting species is proportional to the yearly abundance; García et al. 2013). All thrushes 109 have similar fruit-handling behavior, swallowing the entire fruits after picking them and 110 expelling the intact seeds in their feces. Although some size-based differences in gut 111 retention time are expected between species of thrushes, we assumed these differences 112 to be negligible in terms of effects on seed germination ability. Conversely, each thrush

113 species may vary in their response to landscape structure, a fact that leads to

114 complementary spatial patterns of seed dispersal (Morales et al. 2013, and references 115 within).

116 Previous studies in the same system have revealed that most seeds of the study 117 species are deposited beneath tree canopies, with few reaching uncovered, open areas 118 (García et al. 2005c). Post-dispersal seed predation by rodents (Apodemus spp.) varies 119 markedly between microhabitats (under trees >> open areas; García et al. 2005c), and 120 between tree species (*T. baccata* > *I. aquifolium* > *C. monogyna*; García et al. 2005a). 121 Germination of dispersed seeds occurs after 18 months, i.e. in the second spring after 122 seed dispersal, with slight differences between tree species and between microhabitat (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A3). Seedlings suffer high mortality after 123 124 emergence due to grazing and trampling by ungulates, but survival increases when 125 seedlings grow under nurse woody plants (García and Obeso 2003, Martínez 2014).

126

Study area and field sampling

127 Field sampling was conducted in the Sierra de Peña Mayor (43°18'00"N, 5°30'29"W, 128 1000 m a.s.l., Asturias, Spain) where secondary forests occur as edging patches next to 129 deciduous forests of beech Fagus sylvatica or as variable-sized fragments (from 130 remnant trees to areas of several hectares) interspersed with a historically deforested 131 matrix of pastures and heathland (Herrera et al. 2011). A rectangular plot of 400 m x 132 440 m (17.6 ha) was set up, in order to cover a gradient of forest loss, from dense forest 133 patches to isolated trees scattered through pastures, so the plot was subdivided into 440 134 sampling cells of 20 m x 20 m (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A1.B). 135 Likewise, a Geographical Information System (GIS, ArcGIS v9.3) was developed in 136 order to estimate the percentage of tree cover per cell (in m²) by incorporating a grid

and a digitized forest cover layer. Additionally, in October 2009 and 2010 we estimated,
in the field, the position of all individual trees and the fruit crop of each individual tree
of the studied fleshy-fruited species within each plot cell (see Supplementary material
Appendix 1 for methodological details). For each year, we incorporated the data on fruit
production into the GIS platform in order to quantify the number of trees and the total
fruit production per cell.

143 From October to February of 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, we studied 144 the spatially-explicit foraging patterns of each thrush species, quantifying their 145 movements, flight distances and perching habitats, as well as the number of fruits 146 consumed from each tree species. Data collection was based on direct observation 147 sequences of individual birds, made from elevated positions located along the central 148 axis of the plot. During field surveys, we also recorded the presence of individual birds 149 across the plot cells, in order to provide a measure of bird species abundance (see 150 Supplementary material Appendix 1 and references therein).

151 In fall-winter 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 (2009 and 2010 hereafter) we assessed 152 seed deposition by birds in a subset of 220 cells following a checkered pattern 153 (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A1.C). Within each cell, and in two separate 154 surveys (November and January) of each sampling season, we counted the number of 155 seeds of fleshy-fruited trees found in bird feces in ten sampling stations (open-ground 156 50 cm x 50 cm quadrats) each separated from the others by 2 m (Supplementary 157 material Appendix 1, Fig. A1.C). We assigned each seed sampling station to one of the 158 following five microhabitats depending on the type of fine-scale cover: (a) beneath C. 159 monogyna, (b) beneath I. aquifolium, (c) beneath T. baccata, (d) beneath non-fleshy-160 fruited trees (e.g. Corylus avellana) and (e) in the open (i.e. uncovered by tree canopy, 161 e.g. pastures). For each year, in each sampling station, we calculated the number of

dispersed seeds per tree species as the sum of seeds found in the two consecutivesurveys.

164 From April to late August of 2011 and 2012, in the subset of cells for measuring 165 seed deposition, we recorded the number of emerged seedlings of the tree species under 166 study. For each cell, we established five seedling sampling stations (open-ground 50 cm 167 x 50 cm quadrats), separated from each other by four meters but adjacent to a seed 168 sampling station (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A1.D). All emerged 169 seedlings were specifically and individually identified, and their survival was monitored 170 monthly throughout the season. We considered a seedling to be established when it 171 survived to the end of the summer, as previous surveys had revealed that the summer 172 period was when seedling mortality was highest (Martínez 2014). The seed dormancy 173 period of all three fleshy-fruited trees lasts 18 months. Thus, we assigned the seedlings 174 emerging in 2010 and in 2011 to the cohorts of seeds dispersed in 2009 and in 2010, 175 respectively. Comprehensive details of field data collection are shown in Supplementary 176 material Appendix 1.

177 Seed-dispersal interaction matrices at two regeneration stages

178 Our analytical goal was to compare the structure of plant-seed disperser (tree-bird) 179 networks across two stages of plant regeneration. This requires estimating quantitative 180 matrices of paired tree-bird interactions at seed deposition and seedling recruitment. 181 Thus, interactions should be based on determining which species of bird was likely to 182 have, respectively, deposited a given seed, and have recruited a given seedling. Due to 183 the methodological constraints in obtaining this kind of information in the field (e.g. 184 González-Varo et al. 2014), we opted for an approach based on three principal steps 185 (Fig. 1): (1) estimation of tree-bird and tree-microhabitat matrices of seed deposition

(Fig. 1D), based on a mechanistic model of seed dispersal (Fig. 1B); (2) validation of
the simulated seed dispersal patterns with field data on the tree-specific seed
distributions between microhabitats (Fig. 1D and Fig. 1A); and (3) estimation of the
tree-bird matrices of seedling recruitment from the simulated seed deposition matrices
(Fig. 1E), taking into account microhabitat-dependent seed fates quantified from field
surveys (Fig. 1C).

192 Seed deposition matrices from a mechanistic model of seed dispersal

193 We implemented a model that predicts, through stochastic simulations, the deposition of 194 seeds of different species of trees by birds according to mechanistic rules. These rules 195 combined mathematical functions representing the performance of bird species 196 depending on the movement and foraging behavior of each species under a realistic 197 scenario (that of our study site and period). The values of model parameters that 198 determined the shape of the functions varied between species, and were estimated from 199 field data of both the relative abundances of fruits and birds and the foraging activity of 200 bird species. The model used here expands the previous versions developed by Morales 201 and Carlo (2006), Carlo and Morales (2008), and Morales et al. (2013), in the sense that 202 it now predicts seed deposition in the five microhabitats distinguished in our field study 203 (i.e. beneath C. monogyna, I. aquifolium, T. baccata, and non-fleshy-fruited tree 204 species, and in the open). This therefore enabled us to incorporate a quality component 205 to each seed dispersal event, as seed fate is expected to be mostly driven by 206 microhabitat features. A detailed description of the structure of the model and functions 207 fitted is presented in Supplementary material Appendix 2 (see also Morales et al. 2013). 208 Basically, the model simulated individual bird tracks (i.e. the displacement of an 209 individual bird, able to consume fruits and expel seeds while moving) within a grid-

210 based, modeling landscape that replicates the spatial extent and the environmental 211 variability of our 440-cells study plot. Globally, the path of tracks varied depending on 212 bird response to landscape heterogeneity (measured by forest cover and fruit 213 abundance); the outcome of tracks (in terms of fruit consumption and microhabitat-214 dependent seed deposition) depended on which fruiting species were encountered by 215 birds, gut retention time, and microhabitat-dependent perching probabilities 216 (Supplementary material Appendix 2, Fig. A4). The movement of a bird from one cell 217 to another was predicted by a combination of functions that took into account (Fig. 1A): 218 (a) the distance to the cell where the movement starts, (b) the proportion of forest cover 219 in the destination cell, (c) the number of fruits in the destination cell, and (d) the 220 distance to the edge of the plot (which allowed birds to leave the modeling landscape). 221 The consumption of fruits by a given bird along a track depended on (e) fruit 222 availability in the cell (updated after each track and fruit removal). Gut retention time 223 depended on (f) the body size of each bird species. Finally, the probability of seed 224 deposition in a given microhabitat within a cell depended on the destination perch, a 225 combined function of: (g) the number of fruits of each tree species in that cell, (h) the 226 number of trees of each species in that cell, and (i) the species of the ingested seed (as 227 the probability of deposition beneath a conspecific perching tree has been demonstrated 228 to be higher than beneath other tree species; García et al. 2007). We fitted seed 229 deposition probability in the open microhabitat according to the proportion of forested 230 area within each cell.

We obtained each model output (i.e. seed dispersal data) as a spatially-explicit (cell- and microhabitat-based) prediction of seed deposition for each tree species and by each bird species, that is, a multi-specific seed rain across the modeled landscape (Fig. 1B). Each model output was the result of a simulation accounting for 5000 bird tracks,

and the simulations were replicated 30 times (i.e. 30 independent model outputs), for
each of the two year scenarios (2009 and 2010). These year scenarios accounted for the
field-based values of fruit availability and abundance of bird species in the respective
years. We finally selected the seed deposition output corresponding to a subset of the
220 cells of the modeling landscape in equivalent positions to those containing seed
deposition and seedling establishment sampling stations in the field (Fig. 1C;
Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A1C).

The data of each seed deposition output, accounting for tree-bird and treemicrohabitat specific information, were pooled across microhabitats. In this way, we obtained a seed deposition matrix that accounted for the number of seeds of each tree species that were dispersed by each bird species. For each year scenario, we thus obtained 30 matrices of simulated seed deposition (Fig. 1D).

247 Validation of model-predicted seed deposition

248 In order to validate the seed deposition patterns predicted by the mechanistic model, we 249 first re-organized the data of seed deposition outputs by pooling the data from all six 250 species of birds. That is, we generated 30 matrices for each study year, with the tree 251 species as rows, the microhabitats as columns and the number of deposited seeds as 252 matrix-cell counts (Fig. 1D). Each year, we then calculated a single simulated seed 253 deposition matrix (the average of the 30 replicates) which was correlated, by means of a 254 Mantel test, with a matrix obtained from seed deposition field data for the 255 corresponding year and using the same tree-microhabitat structure (i.e. the total number 256 of seeds of each tree species collected in each microhabitat; Fig. 1A). We performed the 257 Mantel test using the *ecodist* library in R v. 3.0.2 (R Development Core Team 2013).

258 Seedling recruitment matrices: incorporating seed fate into simulated seed deposition

259 Based on the simulated seed deposition raw outputs (that is, those accounting for 260 microhabitat, tree and bird species), we calculated seedling recruitment matrices as the 261 number of established seedlings attributable to each tree and bird species in each 262 microhabitat (Fig. 1E). For each year (i.e. seeds corresponding to the same yearly 263 fruiting cohorts), we multiplied each simulated seed deposition output by two matrices 264 of transition probabilities: a) a *seedling emergence rate* (i.e. the proportion of deposited 265 seeds from which a seedling emerged after an 18-months post-dispersal period), and b) 266 a seedling survival rate (i.e. the proportion of emerged seedlings which survived to the 267 end of the summer season). All transition probabilities were estimated from field data 268 for each tree species, microhabitat and year (seed cohort). Namely, seedling emergence 269 of a given tree species in a given microhabitat was calculated by matching the total 270 number of emerged seedlings of that species, in the sampling stations of that 271 microhabitat, with the total number of seeds of the corresponding cohort deposited in 272 the adjacent seed sampling stations (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A1.C). 273 Seedling survival was also calculated in each microhabitat, for each species and year, by 274 dividing the total number of established seedlings in the sampling stations of a given 275 microhabitat by the total number of emerged seedlings in those stations.

Similar to the simulated seed deposition matrices, we further re-organized
seedling recruitment matrices by pooling the number of established seedlings across
microhabitats in order to produce matrices with tree species as rows, birds species as
columns, and the number of established seedlings as cell counts, for each year (Fig. 1E).

280 Network analyses

281 A quantitative network approach was used to evaluate the structure of interactions

between fleshy-fruited trees and frugivorous birds, considering separately the

regeneration stages of seed deposition and seedling recruitment and two cohorts (2009
and 2010; Fig. 1). For each cohort, we applied network analyses to the 30 replicates of
our simulated seed deposition and seed recruitment matrices.

286 As would be suggested by previous conceptual models (Carlo & Yang 2011; 287 Schleuning et al. 2015), we were expecting that incorporating seed fate into plant-288 frugivore networks would lead to changes in the relative frequencies (interaction 289 weights) and the number of paired interactions (links) within the network. In view of 290 this, we exclusively focused on two complementary metrics representing different 291 aspects of the diversity of interactions in the global network: interaction evenness and 292 linkage density. Interaction evenness is calculated from the Shannon's evenness index. 293 It is a measure of the heterogeneity of interaction frequencies in *the whole network* (e.g. 294 a more heterogeneous network is expected when few strong tree-bird interactions 295 dominate seed deposition or seedling recruitment). In other words, it provides additional 296 information about the relative allocation of the contributions of all the frugivores for 297 seed dispersal and seedling recruitment. It ranges from 0 (uneven networks) to 1 298 (uniform network) and the change in this metric would reflect changes in the 299 distribution of interaction weights in the whole network, even with no modifications in 300 the number of interacting species. Linkage density is a measure of the mean number of 301 links per species, weighted by the number of interactions. Thus, it reflects the average 302 richness of links per species at the global network level, and its variability quantifies 303 interaction gains or losses. In weighted networks, changes in this metric also represent 304 the variability in the distribution of interaction weights *within specific species*. For more 305 detailed definitions of the parameters used see Dormann et al. (2009).

These two topological parameters were calculated using the *networklevel*function from the *bipartite* package (version 2.05, Dormann, et al. 2009). Likewise,

network graphs were represented with the *plotweb* function. Finally, we compared the
values of network metrics between years for both seed deposition and recruitment by
means of two sample t-tests, and between regeneration stages from a given cohort, by
means of paired t-tests. All statistical analyses were performed in the R statistical
software version 3.0.2 (R Development Core Team 2013).

313

314 **RESULTS**

315 Overview of field results

316 Field sampling evidenced strong inter-annual variability in the total abundance of fruits, 317 seeds and seedlings of tree species from 2009 to 2010, as well as of the species of birds 318 (Fig. 2). All six species of birds were observed in both study years, but T. pilaris and T. 319 torquatus accounted for less than 2% of bird observations in each year. However, inter-320 annual variability was found for the remaining bird species. Namely, T. iliacus was the 321 dominant bird in 2009, while T. philomelos showed the highest relative abundance in 322 2010 (Fig. 2A). T. merula and T. viscivorus always showed intermediate values of 323 relative abundance.

The total abundance of fleshy fruits increased from 2009 to 2010 (Fig.2B). While in 2009 *I. aquifolium* was the dominant species with almost 84% of the total fruit crop, in 2010 it was *C. monogyna* with 65%. Moreover, *T. baccata* accounted for less than 10% of fruits in both years. Hence, the fruiting landscape changed between years (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A2) as a result of the differences in the relative abundance of species between years and their spatial distribution.

As regards seed deposition, *I. aquifolium* was always the most abundant species, even in 2010, when the higher number of seeds per fruit partially compensated for its lower fruit production, compared with *C. monogyna* (Fig. 2C).

Concerning dispersed seeds across microhabitats, both years more than 70% of *I. aquifolium* seeds were deposited beneath conspecific trees, whereas more than 45% of *C. monogyna* seeds were dropped beneath heterospecific, fleshy-fruited trees (Supplementary material Appendix 3, Table A3). For *T. baccata*, conspecific canopy received the largest proportion of seeds. The percentage of seeds found in open areas was always lower than 12%, with *C. monogyna* being the species with most seeds reaching this microhabitat.

341 The relative abundance of emerged and surviving seedlings was always higher 342 for I. aquifolium, most notably in the 2009 cohort (Fig. 2D and Fig. 2E). Nevertheless, 343 *C. monogyna* showed higher relative abundances of emerged and surviving seedlings 344 than expected from its relative abundances at seed deposition. Indeed, in both years the 345 latter was the species with the highest seedling emergence rates in all microhabitats, 346 especially in open areas (Supplementary material Appendix 3, Table A4). Seedling 347 survival rates were lower for C. monogyna than for I. aquifolium or T. baccata beneath 348 cover microhabitats, but the reverse occurred in open areas.

349 Seed deposition model prediction and validation

350 Simulations showed that seeds of all three tree species were mainly dispersed beneath

351 their conspecifics, and the percentage of seeds found in open areas was always lower

- than 12% for all tree species and years with C. monogyna being, comparatively, the
- 353 species with the highest numbers of seeds arriving in this kind of microhabitat
- 354 (Supplementary material Appendix 3, Table A6). In both years, these simulation results

agreed with field data, as suggested by the positive and significant correlations between the observed and the simulated proportion of each species of seeds found in each microhabitat (Mantel test: $r \ge 0.889$, $p \le 0.015$, for both years; Supplementary material Appendix 3, Tables A3 and A6). Our mechanistic model was, thus, able to explain a high proportion of the observed variability in seed dispersal.

- 360 Most bird species (particularly *T. iliacus*) dispersed the majority of the simulated
- 361 seeds beneath canopies of fleshy-fruited tree species, but *T. viscivorus* and *T. pilaris*

362 displaced a comparatively higher proportion of seeds into open areas (Supplementary

363 material Appendix 3, Table A8). These differences between bird species were

- 364 accentuated in the transition from seed deposition to seedling recruitment
- 365 (Supplementary material Appendix 3, Table A9).

366 Interaction networks for different regeneration stages and years

367 Bipartite graphs revealed that the interaction frequencies of the six birds and the three

trees changed between regeneration stages and years. In 2009, T. iliacus, together with

369 T. philomelos and T. merula, accounted for 93% of seed deposition interactions and

370 89% of seedling recruitment, whereas, it was *T. philomelos* and *T. merula* that

dominated both networks in 2010. With respect to trees, the interaction frequency of *C*.

372 *monogyna* increased from seed deposition to recruitment networks, especially in 2009

373 (Fig. 3).

Regarding the network metrics, we found a significant increase in interaction evenness from seed deposition to seedling recruitment for both cohorts (Fig. 4), in 2009 (paired-t= 21.49; p<0.0001) and in 2010 (paired-t= 3.37; p=0.002). That is, in both cases the homogeneity of interaction weights within the whole network was higher at the seedling recruitment stage than at the seed deposition one, especially in the cohort of

379	2009. Similarly, linkage density increased from seed deposition to the recruitment stage
380	in the 2009 cohort (paired-t= 19.43; p<0.0001). This latter structural change was
381	probably related to a modification in the distribution of the interaction weights when
382	looking at the specific species, namely the decrease of dominance of I. aquifolium
383	within the main bird species (T. iliacus, T. philomelos, Fig. 3). However, we found an
384	opposite trend for the 2010 cohort, with a decrease in the linkage density across
385	regeneration stages (paired-t= -8.66; p<0.0001). The increase in the dominant role of C .
386	monogyna from seed deposition to recruitment and, more importantly, the loss of
387	interactions within the networks, such as the ones between three species of birds when
388	recruiting <i>T. baccata</i> probably underpinned the decrease in linkage density (Fig. 3).
389	Inter-annual differences between networks corresponding to a given
390	regeneration stage were also found (Fig. 4). The distribution of interactions for seed
391	deposition networks was more homogeneous in 2010 than in 2009 (interaction
392	evenness; t= 4.78; p<0.0001), apparently due to the decreased dominance of I .
393	aquifolium (Fig. 3). At the same time, and probably derived from the increased
394	weighting of T. philomelos and C. monogyna, the whole recruitment networks presented
395	the opposite trend, being less even in 2010 than in 2009 (t= -12.46; p<0.0001).
396	However, the values of linkage density decreased between cohorts for both regeneration
397	stages (seed deposition: t= -5.75; p<0.0001; recruitment: t= -18.71; p<0.0001), also
398	probably due to the increase in the dominance of a few birds within the main tree
399	species (I. aquifolium and C. monogyna).
100	

DISCUSSION

402 Plant-seed disperser networks have been widely explored in previous studies (e.g. 403 Donatti et al. 2011, Mello et al. 2014) in order to identify the topological generalities of 404 these ecological assemblages as well as the consequences of these generalities in terms 405 of stability or evolutionary potential. These studies have usually represented the 406 complexity of plant-frugivore interactions only at the beginning of the plant 407 regeneration process, being blind to the final functional effect of these interactions 408 (Carlo & Yang 2011). In this study we overcome this partial view of interaction 409 diversity in plant-animal assemblages, by incorporating seed fate into simulated plant-410 seed disperser networks. By using a mechanistic model parameterized with field data, 411 we were able to estimate frugivore-specific seed deposition in different microhabitats. 412 Seed dispersal interactions were later translated into interactions between frugivores and 413 plants at the seedling stage by accounting for field-measured, microhabitat-dependent 414 recruitment expectancies. Overall, we show that the diversity of interactions may 415 increase across plant regeneration stages, and also change between successive plant 416 cohorts.

417

418 Variability in interaction diversity across plant regeneration stages

Here, we took into account the transition between plant regeneration stages, seen as the result of filtering agents (e.g. frugivores, seed predators, abiotic factors causing seedling mortality; Zamora and Matías 2014) operating on successive demographic processes (fruit removal and seed dispersal, seedling establishment; Wang and Smith 2002). We assumed that these filters may modify the global distribution of interaction frequencies between plant and bird species from the stage of seed dispersal to that of seedling

recruitment, and thus that these distribution changes are well represented by networkmetrics related to interaction diversity (Schleuning et al. 2015).

427 We first detected changes in the dominance of interactions, as reflected by the 428 increase in interaction evenness, from seed dispersal to recruitment (most notably in the 429 cohort of 2009). Thus, tree and bird species made a more even contribution to the whole 430 interaction network after accounting for post-dispersal fate. A negative correlation 431 between the quantitative and qualitative roles of seed dispersers (with the most frequent 432 disperser having the lowest quality and *vice versa*) could explain such an increase in 433 interaction evenness (Schleuning et al. 2015). However, no strong differences between 434 species of thrushes were expected in seed gut treatment, and no relationship between the 435 abundance of the different thrushes and their contribution to the seed rain was apparent 436 (Fig. 2; Supplementary material Appendix 3, Table A8). We thus need to search for 437 alternative arguments to explain changes of evenness. In this sense, these modifications 438 accord with C. monogyna having a stronger, and far more equitable role in the 439 networks, compared to *I. aquifolium*. This probably derived from the higher emergence 440 rates of C. monogyna compared to the other trees (Supplementary material Appendix 3, 441 Table A4), and as a consequence of its generally lower seed predation rate (due to its 442 thicker seed coat; García et al. 2005a). These differences in emergence may be 443 accentuated by subtle differences between trees in their spatial patterns of seed 444 dispersal. Namely, compared to the other trees, C. monogyna showed a higher 445 proportion of seeds reaching open areas (where seed predation is lower and germination 446 slightly higher; García et al. 2005c), as well as a higher proportion of seeds dispersed 447 below heterospecific canopies (where co-deposition with other species further decreases 448 the predation rate; García et al. 2007).

449 Concerning linkage density, a decrease in the value of this metric is expected 450 when demographic filtering leads to the disappearance of some links from the network 451 of seed deposition (e.g. when plant species reduce their coteries of dispersers, thereby 452 losing links with bad-quality dispersers; e.g. Carlo and Yang2011). In our case, 453 microhabitat differences in seed fate, and bird differences in seed deposition patterns, 454 seemed to determine a weak-to-moderate gradient in seed disperser quality, with 455 probably weak effects on the loss of links. Nevertheless, we would expect a decrease in 456 linkage density along the demographic process if some links could be lost just owing to 457 sampling effects, when all the seeds of rare plants, dispersed by rare frugivores, 458 disappear after heavy post-dispersal losses. This is what we found for the 2010 cohort, a 459 decrease in the number of links between T. baccata and the species of birds responsible 460 for its recruitment (Fig. 3). The high predation rate suffered by seeds of *T. baccata* in 461 the Cantabrian range (García et al. 2005a, 2007), and the concomitant low establishment 462 probability of this species, may also underpin the loss of interactions concerning this 463 tree across regeneration stages. On the other hand, as the number of links could not 464 become larger from seed dispersal to recruitment, higher values found for the 2009 465 cohort reveals that these changes were due to the relative weight of each plant species 466 within each frugivore species (for example as a consequence of the increase in the 467 relative role of *C. monogyna* in the recruitment network).

468

469 Inter-annual variability in seed deposition and recruitment networks

470 Our comparison of two plant cohorts evidenced strong differences in interaction
471 frequencies in terms of the distribution across tree and bird species, as well as with

472 regards to the global structure of networks. Changes in interaction frequencies at the

473 seed deposition stage seemed to mirror between-year variation in the relative 474 abundances of both fruits and birds. As for birds, most of the inter-annual variability 475 was accounted for by the opposing trends of *T. iliacus* and *T. philomelos*. Variations in 476 the number of migrant individuals reaching and wintering in the Cantabrian Range each 477 year probably supported these differences (Tellería et al. 2014). As T. iliacus decreased 478 in abundance from 2009 to 2010, the seed dispersal and recruitment networks were 479 dominated by T. philomelos, with a concomitant decrease in linkage density. With 480 respect to trees, the variability in fruit crop composition provoked by the alternating 481 masting events of I. aquifolium and C. monogyna cascaded into strong changes in the 482 relative dominance of each species, affecting interaction evenness. In sum, our study 483 evidences that the functional effect of seed dispersal networks depends on the, typically 484 strong, inter-annual dynamism of the fruit-frugivore interaction (see also Carnicer et al. 485 2009).

486 Post-dispersal processes may, however, buffer the weight of relative abundances 487 at the seed dispersal stage when driving inter-annual differences in recruitment 488 networks. For example, for the 2010 cohort, the proportion of seeds in the open and 489 beneath non-fleshy trees (microhabitats allowing higher rates of seedling emergence) 490 was comparatively higher, irrespective of the tree and the bird species. This was 491 probably the result of all birds using landscape sectors rich in these types of 492 microhabitats more frequently in 2010 in response to the fruit crop being more widely 493 distributed across the whole study plot (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A2; 494 Martínez and García, 2014).

495

496 CONCLUDING REMARKS

497 We show here that the interaction diversity in plant-seed disperser networks increases 498 when considering the functional effect of birds on plants. The process of demographic 499 filtering on plants could neutrally provoke these changes by itself, as the random loss of 500 plant propagules would make those depending on rare interactions become even rarer. 501 Nonetheless, we pinpoint two deterministic forces equalizing the interactions across 502 plant regeneration: disperser quality, here dependent on how the spatial pattern of seed 503 deposition matches that of seed fate; and plant species traits, as each species may make 504 their recruitment more dependent on specific traits (here, for example, seed hardness 505 driving differences in seed predation) than on the deposition microhabitat imposed by 506 dispersers. Interactions between disperser quality and plant traits are, nevertheless, 507 possible, as, on the one hand, a seed not favored for frugivore removal may still recruit 508 if deposited in a particular microhabitat (e.g. García et al. 2007), and, on the other hand, 509 the effect of some plant traits may differentially emerge depending on the microhabitat 510 (e.g. seed hardness becoming innocuous when there are very few seed predators; García 511 et al. 2005c). In sum, this work strongly recommends the development of an integrative 512 framework to predict the balanced and interactive effects of plant and animal traits in 513 the functional outcome of plant-animal mutualistic networks (Schleuning et al. 2015). 514 Further studies should corroborate the present results in species-rich plant-seed 515 disperser assemblages, such as tropical ones (e.g. Donatti et al. 2011), by incorporating 516 the demographic data needed to assign specific fates to the seeds of different plants 517 dispersed by different animals.

518

519 Acknowledgements: We thank J. Rodríguez, C. Guardado and R. Pérez for technical
520 support during fieldwork. J. Fründ and J.M. Morales for statistical advice and R.
521 Lendrum for linguistic review. Dries Bonte and two anonymous referees provided

522	useful suggestions to improve an early version of the manuscript. This research was
523	supported by the Spanish National Program of Research and Development (MICINN
524	CGL2011-28430 grant to DG) and the FPI Program - European Social Fund (BES2009-
525	25093 and BES2012-052863 grants to DM and ID, respectively). Fieldwork was
526	conducted according to Spanish environmental legislation and with the permission of
527	the Regional Government of Asturias.
528	
529	REFERENCES
530	Albrecht, J. et al. 2013. Logging and forest edges reduce redundancy in plant-frugivore
531	networks in an old-growth European forest J. Ecol. 101: 990–999.
532	Bascompte, J. and Jordano, P. 2007. Plant-animal mutualistic networks: The
533	architecture of biodiversity Annu. Rev. Ecol. Evol. Syst. 38: 567–593.
534	Blüthgen, N. and Klein, A. M. 2011. Functional complementarity and specialisation: the
535	role of biodiversity in plant-pollinator interactions Basic Appl. Ecol. 12: 282-
536	291.
537	Carlo, T. and Morales, J. 2008. Inequalities in fruit-removal and seed dispersal:
538	consequences of bird behaviour, neighbourhood density and landscape
539	aggregation J. Ecol. 96: 609–618.
540	Carlo, T. A. and Yang, S. 2011. From frugivory to seed dispersal networks: challenges
541	and opportunities of a new paradigm Acta Oecol. 27: 619-624.
542	Carnicer, J. et al. 2009. The temporal dynamics of resource use by frugivorous birds: a
543	network approach Ecology 90: 1958–1970.

544	Chama, L. et al. 2013. Habitat Characteristics of Forest Fragments Determine					
545	Specialisation of Plant-Frugivore Networks in a Mosaic Forest Landscape PLoS					
546	ONE 8: e54956.					

547 Donatti, C. I. et al. 2011. Analysis of a hyper-diverse seed dispersal network:

548 modularity and underlying mechanisms. - Ecol. Lett. 14: 773–781.

- 549 Dormann, C. F. et al. 2009. Indices, graphs and null models: analyzing bipartite
 550 ecological networks. Open Ecol. J. 2: 7-24.
- 551 García, D. and Obeso J.R. 2003. Facilitation by herbivore-mediated nurse plants in a
- 552 threatened tree *Taxus baccata*: local effects and landscape level consistency. -
- 553 Ecography 26: 739-750.
- García, D. et al. 2005a. Rodent seed predation promotes differential recruitment among
 bird-dispersed trees in temperate secondary forests. Oecologia 144: 435–46.
- García, D. et al. 2005b. Fragmentation patterns and protection of montane forest in the
 Cantabrian range (NW Spain). Forest Ecol. Manag. 208: 29–43.
- 558 García, D. et al. 2005c. Spatial concordance between seed rain and seedling
- establishment in bird-dispersed trees: does scale matter? J. Ecol. 93: 693–704.
- García, D. et al. 2007. Seed transfer among bird-dispersed trees and its consequences
 for post-dispersal seed fate. Basic Appl. Ecol. 8: 533–543.
- García, D. et al. 2013. Functional heterogeneity in a plant-frugivore assemblage
 enhances seed dispersal resilience to habitat loss. Ecography 36: 197–208.

564	González-Castro, A. et al. 2014. Comparing seed dispersal effectiveness by frugivores
565	at the community level Ecology 96: 808–818.
566	González-Varo, J. P. et al. 2014. Who dispersed the seeds? The use of DNA barcoding
567	in frugivory and seed dispersal studies Methods Ecol. Evol. 5: 806–814.
568	Herrera J.M. et al. 2011. Differential effects of fruit availability and habitat cover for
569	frugivore-mediated seed dispersal in a heterogeneous landscape J. Ecol. 99:1100-
570	1107.
571	Martínez, D. 2014. Seed dispersal and forest recolonization in a fragmented landscape.
572	Looking for the footprint of thrushes (Turdus spp.) beyond the forest. PhD thesis,
573	University of Oviedo. Oviedo.
574	Martínez, D. and García, D. 2015. Changes in the fruiting landscape relax restrictions
575	on endozoochorous tree dispersal into deforested lands Appl. Veg. Sci. 18: 197-
576	208.
577	Mello, M. A. R., et al. 2015. Keystone species in seed dispersal networks are mainly
578	determined by dietary specialization. Oikos 124: 1031-1039.
579	Morales, J. M. and Carlo, T. A. 2006. The effects of plant distribution and frugivore
580	density on the scale and shape of dispersal kernels Ecology 87: 1489–96.
581	Morales, J. M. et al. 2013. Frugivore behavioural details matter for seed dispersal: A
582	multi-species model for Cantabrian thrushes and trees PLoS One 8: e65216.

	583	Plein, M. et al.	2013. Co	onstant prop	perties of	plant-frug	givore ne	etworks o	despite
--	-----	------------------	----------	--------------	------------	------------	-----------	-----------	---------

- fluctuations in fruit and bird communities in space and time. Ecology 94: 1296–
 1306.
- 586 R Development Core Team 2013. R: a Language and Environment for Statistical
- 587 Computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna.
- Schleuning, M. et al. 2012. Specialization of mutualistic interaction networks decreases
 toward tropical latitudes. Curr. Biol. 22: 1925–1931.
- 590 Schleuning, M. et al. 2015. Predicting ecosystem functions from biodiversity and
- 591 mutualistic networks: an extension of trait-based concepts to plant-animal
- interactions. Ecography 38:380-392.
- Schupp, E. W. et al. 2010. Seed dispersal effectiveness revisited: a conceptual review. New Phytol. 188: 333–353.
- 595 Tellería, J. L. et al. 2014. Species abundance and migratory status affects large-scale

fruit tracking in thrushes (Turdus spp.). - J. Ornithol. 155: 157–164.

- 597 Thompson, R. M. et al. 2012. Food webs: reconciling the structure and function of
 598 biodiversity. Trends Ecol. Evol. 27: 689–697.
- 599 Tylianakis, J. M. et al. 2010. Conservation of species interaction networks. Biol.
- 600 Conserv. 143: 2270–2279.
- 601 Vázquez, D. P. et al. 2007. Species abundance and asymmetric interaction strength in
 602 ecological networks. Oikos 116: 1120–1127.

- 603 Vázquez, D. P. et al. 2012. The strength of plant-pollinator interactions. Ecology 93:
 604 719–725.
- Wang, B. C. and Smith, T. B. 2002. Closing the seed dispersal loop. Trends Ecol.
 Evol. 17: 379–386.
- Kiao, Z. et al. 2015. Seed size and number make contrasting predictions on seed
- 608 survival and dispersal dynamics: A case study from oil tea *Camellia oleifera*. -

609 Forest Ecol. Manag. 343: 1–8.

- 610 Zamora, R. and Matías, L. 2014. Seed dispersers, seed predators, and browsers act
- 611 synergistically as biotic filters in a mosaic landscape. PLoS One 9: e107385.

- 613 Supplementary material (Appendix oik.XXXXX at
- 614 <www.oikosjournal.org/readers/appendix>). Appendix 1–3.

615 **Figure captions**

616 Figure 1. Flow diagram representing the overall procedure to obtain networks of the 617 two plant regeneration stages (i.e. seed deposition and seedling recruitment). Each step 618 is represented by different colors and how the information is used across these steps is 619 specified by black arrows (but see the blue dashed line arrow for the model validation 620 procedure). (A) Field data sampling took place during two years (2009-2010 and 2010-621 2011) representing two plant cohorts. (B) This information was used to parameterize the 622 movement and foraging behavior rules of a spatially-explicit mechanistic model. (C) 623 Empirical data on tree regeneration stages was used to estimate transition probability 624 matrices of seedling emergence and seedling survival with different microhabitats as 625 columns (in red) and tree species as rows (in blue). (D) We estimated the seed 626 deposition matrices given the simulated data of the number of seeds dispersed of each 627 plant species (as rows, in blue) by each bird species (as columns, in black) in each of the 628 five microhabitats (in red), coming from the mechanistic model after 30 replicates. 629 Afterwards, we built the seed deposition matrices by pooling the seeds of each plant 630 species dispersed by each bird species across microhabitats. For each cohort, the mean 631 simulated seed deposition matrix was validated with those obtained from field data each 632 year (dashed line arrow). (E) Then, seed deposition matrices were transformed into 633 seedling recruitment by taking into account tree- and microhabitat-specific seed fate 634 (i.e. emergence and survival probabilities) estimated from field sampling and pooling 635 again the seeds of each plant species across microhabitats so as to get the recruitment 636 matrices with bird species as columns (in black), and tree species as rows (in blue). (F) 637 Finally, we compared the structure of seed deposition and seedling recruitment 638 networks by calculating global metrics.

639 Figure 2. (A) Abundances of bird species relative to total bird abundance, (B)

640 proportions of fruits of each tree species, (C) proportion of seeds of each tree species

641 with respect to the total seed rain collected, (D) proportions of emerged seedlings of

642 each tree species, and (E) proportions of surviving seedlings of each tree species, for

two years (plant demographic cohorts). Above the bar of each year: mean \pm standard

644 deviation of (A) fruits per cell; (B) birds per 10 h per cell; (C) seeds per sampling

station per cell; (D) emerged seedlings per sampling station per cell; and (E) surviving

646 seedlings per sampling station per cell (A-B: N=440 cells; C-E: N=220 cells).

Figure 3. Bipartite graphs representing the interaction networks between species of

birds and trees at different tree regeneration stages (left: seed deposition; right: seedling

recruitment) and years (2009 and 2010 seed-to-seedling cohorts). They represent the

650 proportion of dispersed seeds and recruited seedlings of fleshy-fruited trees (bottom

rows), those dispersed or recruited by birds (top rows) and the proportion of dispersed

652 seeds or recruited seedlings per tree and bird (gray links).

Figure 4. Boxplots representing the distribution of values of two network metrics

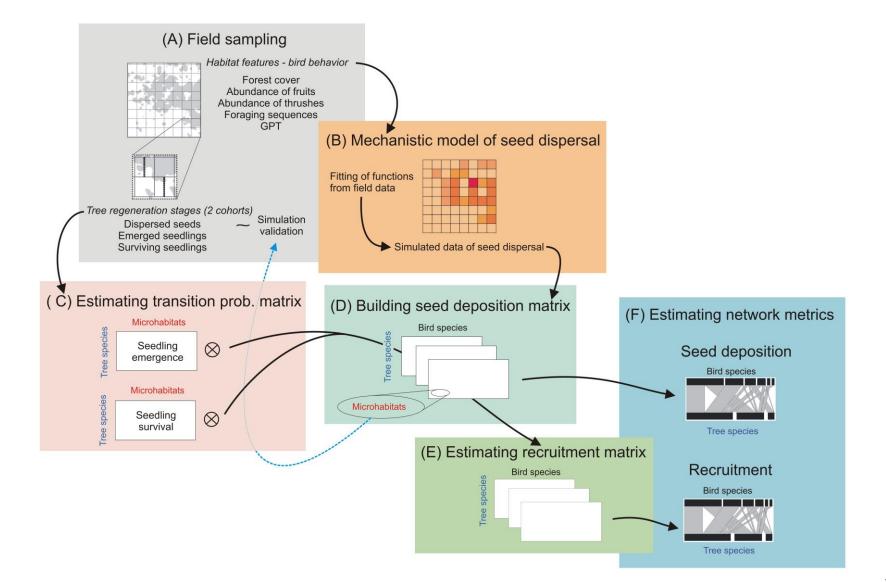
654 (interaction evenness and linkage density) corresponding to interaction matrices (N =

655 30) for different tree regeneration stages (seed deposition, seedling recruitment) and

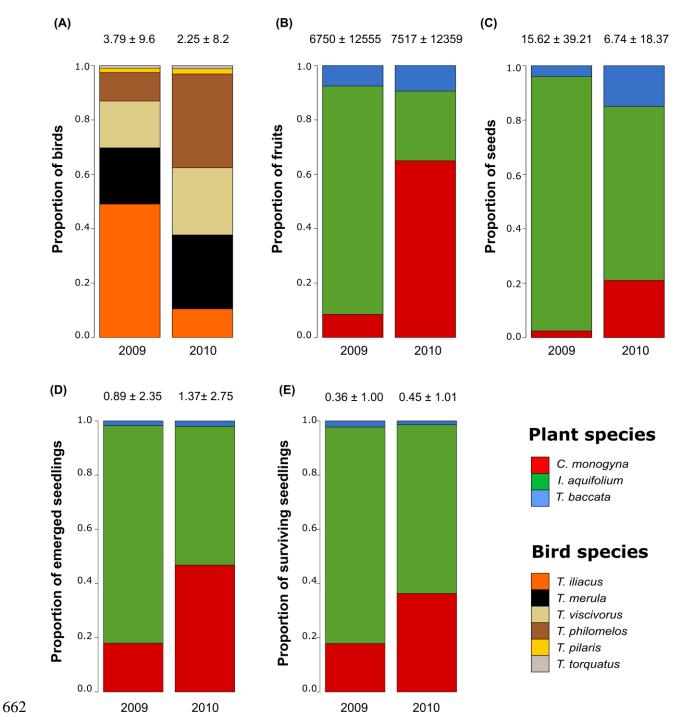
cohorts (2009, 2010). Bottom and top of boxes correspond to lower and upper quartiles

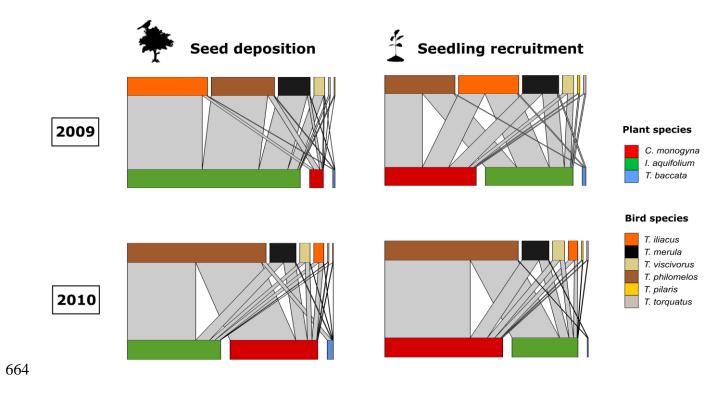
respectively; notches indicate the 95% confidence intervals around the median (black

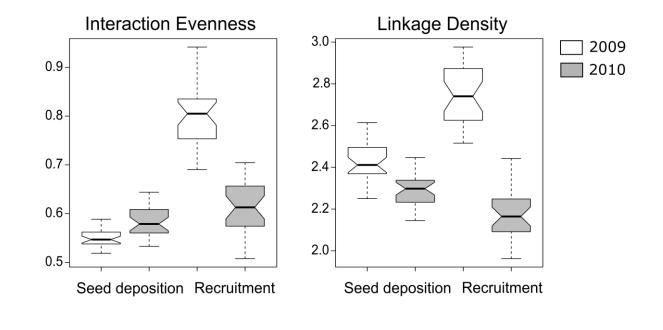
658 band). Note that the Y-axis varies between indices.











1 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

2 Appendix 1 – Detailed methodology and additional results of field study

3 *1. Study plot, forest cover and fruit abundance*

Field study was conducted at the Sierra de Peña Mayor (43°18'00''N, 5°30'29''W, 4 1000 m a.s.l., Asturias, northern Iberian Peninsula; Supplementary Material Appendix 1 5 Fig. A1.A). Field sampling was carried out in a rectangular plot of 400 m x 440 m (17.6 6 7 ha), chosen to represent a gradient of forest loss, from dense forest patches to pastures 8 with scattered trees. Our plot was subdivided into 440 sampling cells of 20 m x 20 m. 9 This combination of sampling extent and grain is known to adequately represent the 10 spatial scale at which tree regeneration processes operate (from frugivory by birds to seedling survival) (García et al. 2013). 11

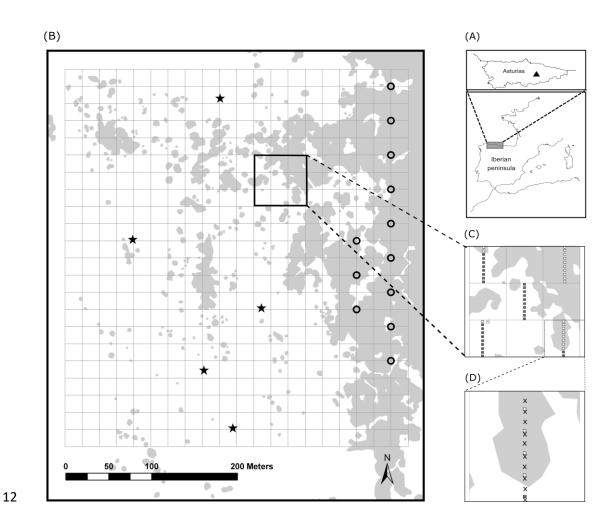


Figure A1 (A) Location of the study site. (B) Scheme of the study plot representing forest cover (gray area) in the 440, 20 m x 20 m sampling cells, as well as the vantage and point-count positions for bird observation (black stars and circles, respectively). (C) A detail of the distribution of seed-rain sampling stations within a subset of cells, which followed a checkered pattern. (D) Detail of a cell showing the distribution of seedling sampling stations located adjacent to seed rain stations (represented by crosses).

19

In 2009 we developed a Geographical Information System (GIS hereafter; ArcGIS v9.3) 20 based on a recent 1:5000-scale orthophotomap image of the study plot to estimate the 21 percentage of cover per cell (in m²) after a digitized forest cover layer and the grid of 22 the 440 sampling cells were integrated. We assumed that inter-annual variability in 23 forest cover was insignificant. Additionally, in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, we assessed 24 the position of all individual trees and the fruit crop of each individual fleshy-fruited 25 26 tree within each cell in order to incorporate data on fruit production into the GIS platform. For this purpose, we visually assigned the standing crop of each individual 27 tree of any fleshy-fruited species by means of a semi-quantitative Fruiting Abundance 28 29 Index (FAI) using a semi-logarithmic scale (considering six intervals: 0 = without fruits; 1 = 1-10 fruits; 2 = 11-100; 3 = 101-1,000; 4 = 1,001-10,000; 5 > 10,001; Saracco et al. 30 2005). For each sampling year, we thus included in our GIS platform all data on 31 location, species and FAI of each individual tree. Finally, we calculated the number of 32 trees, as well as the total fruit production per year, per cell, as the sum of the crops of all 33 fruiting trees, both for each individual tree species and for all tree species together. Crop 34 size was extrapolated from FAI ranks following an allometric equation (crop size = 1.7735 x $e^{1.92\text{FAI}}$; $R^2 = 0.080$; n = 136 trees, Herrera et al. 2011). 36

Fruiting tree species showed strong inter-annual variation in fruit crop. For
instance, in 2009, it was proportionally higher for *I. aquifolium* than for *C. monogyna*,

39	while in 2010 we found the opposite trend (Fig.2 and Supplementary Material Appendix
40	1 Fig. A2). Specifically, the number of fruits per square meter per cell for each fruiting
41	tree species (± standard deviation) for 2009 and 2010, respectively, was: <i>C. monogyna</i> :
42	1.44 ± 0.01 and 12.21 ± 0.05 ; <i>I. aquifolium</i> : 14.16 ± 0.06 and 4.81 ± 0.03 ; <i>T. baccata</i> :
43	1.27 ± 0.02 and 1.77 ± 0.02 . As a result, and taking into account the spatial distribution
44	whereby <i>I. aquifolium</i> and <i>T. baccata</i> trees are mainly located in forest patches but <i>C</i> .
45	monogyna trees are more evenly distributed across the whole study plot (i.e. from larger
46	forest fragments to the deforested matrix), we found a change in the fruiting landscape
47	between years (see also García et al. 2013; Rodríguez-Pérez et al. 2014)

49 2. Abundance and foraging patterns of frugivorous thrushes

From 2008 to 2011 we recorded the abundance and the foraging behavior of thrushes in 50 51 our study plot. In order to estimate the abundance, from October to February of each 52 year, we made direct observations from five vantage points located in elevated outcrops (Supplementary Material Appendix 1 Fig. A1.B) in a balanced number of 1-hour 53 54 observations of all stations. The cumulative yearly observation time was 103, 105, 156 and 215 h (for 2008 to 2011 respectively). Due to the denser forest canopy and 55 topographical characteristics of some stations, complementary bird observations were 56 57 made from 12 forest point-count positions, each one corresponding to the center of a 58 group of four cells (Supplementary Material Appendix 1 Fig. A1.B). These observations 59 were made over 10 min periods, and the cumulative observation time from each point count was 160, 110, 195 and 230 min (for 2008 to 2011, respectively). For each 60 61 individual thrush, we recorded the species identity and the sampling cell in which it was 62 observed. Our goal was to provide a measure of bird abundance in functional terms, i.e.

an estimation of the total activity of the frugivorous thrushes across the season in the
plot, rather than estimating their actual population sizes. For more information about
this methodology, see García and Martinez (2012), García et al. (2013) and Morales et
al. (2013).

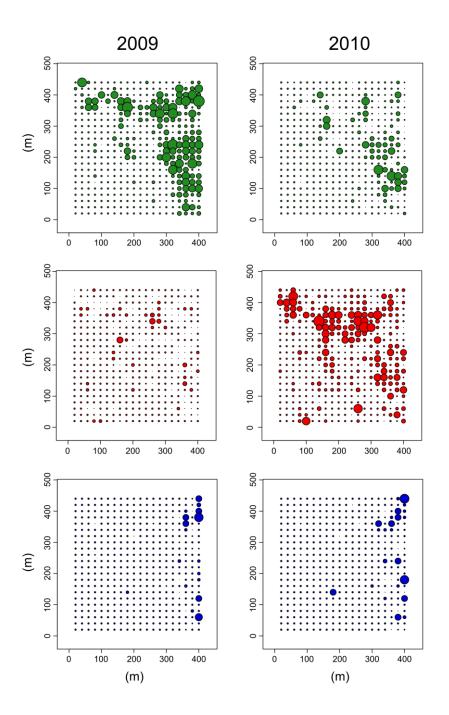




Figure A2. Abundance and distribution of fruit crop of the tree species under study (green: *Ilex aquifolium*; red: *Crategus monogyna*; blue: *Taxus baccata*) in the study plot in two different

years (2009 and 2010). Dots represent the centroids of each cell and their size is proportional tothe number of fruits per cell.

72

From 2008 to 2010 we also recorded the foraging behavior and movement 73 74 patterns of birds in our study plot. From October to February, we gathered data on the 75 activity of thrushes over individual sequences from the five vantage positions described 76 above. Observation time was 90, 79 and 63 h for 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. During each census time we recorded (a) the thrush species identity, (b) the flight 77 78 distance of each movement step (i.e. Euclidean distance between the centroids of the 79 starting point and endpoint cells), (c) the duration and the location of resting time (i.e. the perching tree/landing microhabitat), and (d) the species and number of fleshy fruits 80 81 consumed while perching in a tree. Individual birds were followed until lost, that is, 82 when they disappeared into the canopy and/or left the study plot.

83

84 *3. Seed dispersal*

85 In fall-winter 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 (sampling years 2009 and 2010, hereafter) we quantified seed deposition by thrushes in a subset of 220 cells following a checkered 86 87 pattern (Supplementary Material Appendix 1 Fig. A1.C). Along the central longitudinal axis of these cells we set up 10 sampling stations separated from each other by 2 m 88 (Supplementary Material Appendix 1 Fig. A1.B). Each sampling station consisted of a 89 90 50 cm x 50 cm open-ground quadrat where all the seeds dispersed by thrushes were 91 collected and counted (Supplementary Material Appendix 1 Fig. A1.C). Seed surveys took place in late November and early January of each sampling year. Each seed 92 93 sampling station was assigned to one of the following five possible microhabitats, depending on the type of fine-scale cover: (a) under C. monogyna, (b) under I. 94

95	aquifolium, (c) under T. baccata, (d) under non-fleshy-fruited species (e.g. Corylus
96	avellana) and (e) in the open (i.e. uncovered by tree canopy, e.g. pastures). Thus, we
97	assessed the number of deposited seeds per tree species per year in each sampling
98	station as being the sum of seeds found in the two consecutive surveys.

99 The germination of the seeds of the studied tree species occurred in the field in 100 the second spring (April to June) following seed dispersal (i.e. after 18 months), with no 101 clear differences between tree species or microhabitat, as suggested by a field germination test conducted in 2004-2005 in an area near the study plot. In this test, sets 102 103 of 10 seeds recently dispersed by birds and apparently viable (based on checking the 104 fullness of the endocarp by buoyancy) were placed inside 5cm x 5cm glass-fiber bags of 105 1 mm pore diameter. We buried the seed bags in the topsoil surface layer (at a depth of 106 3 cm) in 25 sampling stations per each of the following microhabitats: (a) beneath C. 107 monogyna, (b) beneath I. aquifolium, (c) beneath female T. baccata, (d) beneath male T. 108 baccata and (e) in the open. After 18 months, we retrieved the bags and in the 109 laboratory counted the number of seeds showing signs of germination (i.e. the seed coat was split into two valves or had seedling remains). Slight differences between 110 microhabitats were found only for seeds of C. monogyna beneath C. monogyna and in 111 the open, and between tree species with regards to the seeds of *I. aquifolium* and *C*. 112 monogyna in the open (Fig. A3). 113

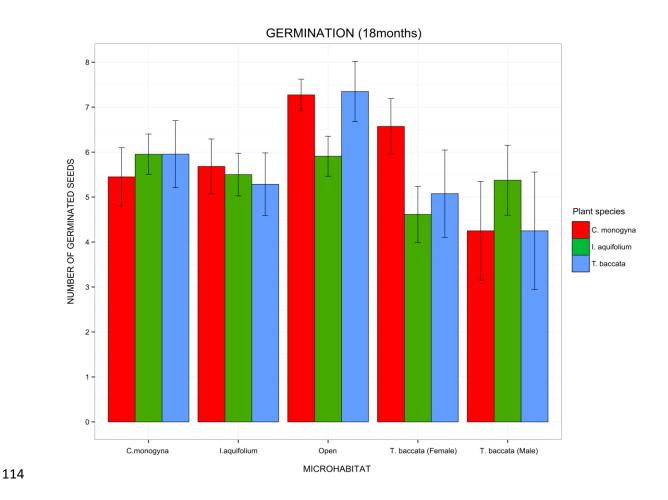


Figure A3. Number of germinated seeds (mean +/- SE) for the different plant species at each of
the five microhabitats after a period of 18 months following seed dispersal by birds.

118 4. Seedling emergence and survival

Seedling emergence and seedling survival surveys took place from April to late August 119 120 of 2011 and 2012, so that the emerged seedlings corresponded to the cohorts of seeds dispersed in our study site in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, respectively. We set up five 121 seedling sampling stations distributed in each of the 220 cells, separated by 4 meters 122 123 from each other but alongside the seed dispersal sampling stations (Supplementary Material Appendix 1 Fig. A1.D). During spring-summer we quantified, with a labeled 124 50 cm x 50 cm quadrat on the ground, the number of seedlings of each of the three 125 fleshy-fruited tree species of this study which had emerged (C. monogyna, I. aquifolium 126

and T. baccata). Seedlings were individually identified, by assigning to each of them x, y 127 128 spatial coordinates within the frame of the sampling quadrat, and mapping them on a drawing template. They were aged based on the presence-absence of cotyledons and the 129 130 stem woodiness (see Peterken and Lloyd, 1967; Thomas and Polwart, 2003). We also determined the microhabitat for each seedling sampling station categorizing them 131 132 according to the same five microhabitats as for seed sampling stations described above 133 (i.e. under C. monogyna, I. aquifolium, T. baccata, other non-fleshy trees or in open areas). We examined the survival of emerged seedlings monthly during spring and 134 summer, until late August, locating the same individual seedlings across surveys. We 135 considered a seedling to be establishment when it survived until the end of the summer, 136 as previous surveys had revealed that the summer period was the period when most 137 seedling mortality occurred (Martínez 2014). 138

139

140 **REFERENCES**

García, D. and Martínez, D. 2012. Species richness matters for the quality of ecosystem
services: a test using seed dispersal by frugivorous birds. - Proc. Biol. Sci. 279: 3106–
13.

144 García, D. et al. 2013. Functional heterogeneity in a plant-frugivore assemblage

enhances seed dispersal resilience to habitat loss. - Ecography 36: 197–208.

Herrera, J.M. et al. 2011. Regional vs local effects of habitat loss and fragmentation on
two plant-animal interactions. - Ecography 34: 606–615.

148 Martínez, D. 2014. Seed dispersal and forest recolonization in a fragmented landscape.

Looking for the footprint of thrushes (*Turdus* spp.) beyond the forest. PhD thesis,

150 University of Oviedo. Oviedo.

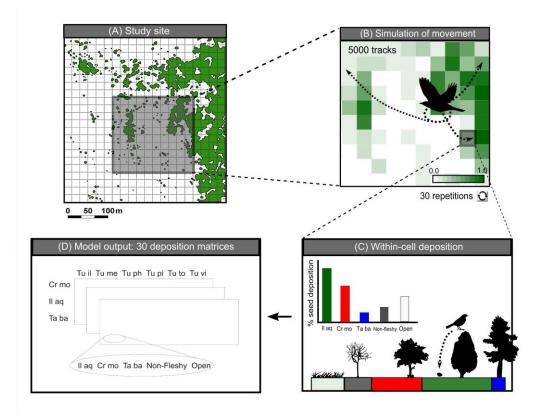
151 Morales, J. M. et al. 2013. Frugivore behavioural details matter for seed dispersal: A

multi-species model for Cantabrian thrushes and trees. - PLoS One 8: e65216.

- 153 Peterken, G. F. and Lloyd, P. S. 1967. Biological Flora of the British Isles: *Ilex*
- 154 *aquifolium* L. J. Ecol. 55: 841–858.
- 155 Rodríguez-Pérez J. et al. 2014. Spatial networks of fleshy-fruited trees drive the flow of
- avian seed dispersal through landscape. Funct. Ecol. 28: 990–998.
- 157 Saracco, J.F. et al. 2005. Crop size and fruit neighborhood effects on bird visitation to
- 158 fruiting *Schefflera morototoni* trees in Puerto Rico. Biotropica 37:81–87.
- 159 Thomas, P. A. and Polwart, A. (2003). *Taxus baccata* L. J. Ecol. 91: 489–524.

Appendix 2 – Model details and parameterization of seed rain for five different deposition microhabitats

163 We adapted the simulation model in Morales et al. (2013) to recreate the relative contribution of each bird species to the total seed rain while moving through a grid-164 165 based landscape (see Supplementary Material Appendix 2 Fig. A4). The adapted model includes several rules emulating bird activity and resource tracking. These rules 166 depended on the different spatial behavior of each thrush species and their response to 167 the habitat structure. Thus, they were mainly based on (a) perching time, fruit 168 consumption and gut passage time, (b) movement events and (c) the probability of seed 169 deposition events in different microhabitats. These rules were parameterized for each of 170 the six species of thrushes in order to get a final output: the spatially-explicit and 171 species-specific seed deposition, used to generate a tree-bird seed dispersed interaction 172 173 matrix.



174

Figure A4. Diagram representing: (A) the distribution of forest cover (green area) in the grid-based study
plot divided into cells that replicated the field study plot; (B) a detail showing the proportion of per-cell
forest cover represented by the green shading. An example of part of the landscape is plotted with the
likely bird movement events and activity (illustrated by arrows). Model simulation is based on 30
replicates of 5000 bird tracks; (C) a schematic representation of the probability of seed deposition events
(including the probability of perching in the five microhabitats, and the gut passage time) within a given
cell; (D) a final mean simulated tree-bird-microhabitat matrix.

183

In order to simulate the movement of each bird, our model was fitted to each 184 185 thrush species based on data obtained from sequences of bird activity made in the study plot from 2008 to 2010 (in which individual birds were tracked by an observer, 186 recording the path followed by the bird and its foraging activity; see Morales et al. 187 188 2013). The model aims to predict the seed dispersal patterns that emerge from the interplay between thrush abundance and their response to the spatial heterogeneity of 189 habitat cover and fruit availability. Given the strong inter-annual differences in fruit 190 abundance and distribution typical in this study system (García et al. 2013; see also 191 Supplementary Material Appendix 1, Fig. A2), we used the data of both 2009 and 2010 192 193 to fit those model functions related to the number of fruits. The remaining functions, which do not depend on habitat heterogeneity (e.g. distance to the nearest plot border, 194 see below), were fitted also taking into account data from 2008 in order to achieve a 195 196 bigger sample size.

The calculations described below (i.e. eq. A1, A2, A3 and A4) were used, first, to estimate the values of the parameters needed to build the rules of the mechanistic model. Our mechanistic rules were a combination of mathematical functions describing the performance of each bird species depending on each bird movement, and activity during fruit supply. These mathematical functions had different parameters, i.e. constant values that determined the shape of the function, which varied between thrush species.

203 The parameters were estimated by fitting different probability density distributions to 204 field data. In other words, the probability that a given event would, (or would not), 205 occur during the activity of each bird (see Supplementary Material Appendix 2 Fig. A5 206 and Fig. A6). To obtain maximum-likelihood estimates for each parameter, we 207 minimized the negative log-likelihood functions using the Nelder-Mead algorithm 208 (Nelder and Mead 1965) with several overdispersed starting points using the *bbmle* 209 library (Bolker and R Development Core Team 2014). The model was implemented in 210 R statistical language (R Development Core Team 2014). Below we describe the general simulation procedure and how we parameterized the mechanistic rules. 211

a) Perching time and fruit consumption

Every time a simulated bird arrived to a landscape cell, it spent an amount of time there
drawn from a Gamma distribution fitted to the observed perching time for each species.
The time a bird was in a given cell was independent of fruit consumption in it, as there
is no existing evidence relating to this fact (Morales et al. 2013 and Supplementary
Material Appendix 2 Table A1). The decisions of the simulated birds (i.e. to stay or to
leave to go to a new landscape cell) were made once perching time expired.

Table A1. Pearson's product-moment correlations between perching time and fruitconsumption for each species.

	r	t and df	p - value	CI
Turdus iliacus	0.084	t = 0.7441, df = 78	0.459	-0.138 0.459
Turdus merula	-0.110	t = -1.0576, df = 91	0.293	-0.307 0.096
Turdus philomelos	0.487	t = 2.494, df = 20	0.021	0.082 0.754
Turdus pilaris	-0.262	t = -0.470, df = 3	0.671	-0.929 0.807
Turdus torquatus	-0.426	t = -0.943 , $df = 4$	0.340	-0.920 0.589

222	Frugivory events depended on both the fruit availability in a given cell and
223	observed fruit consumption rates (García et al. 2013). Simulated birds potentially
224	consumed fruits based on a zero-inflated Poisson distribution fitted to the observed
225	number of fruits consumed by each bird species, and they had no built-in fruit species
226	preferences. Plant species identity depended on fruit species abundance in the landscape
227	cell (Morales et al 2013). If the number of potentially fruits consumed was higher than
228	the number of fruits available in the landscape cell, the simulated birds consumed the
229	minimum between the above-mentioned values.
230	b) Movement events
231	When perching time expired, the movements of simulated birds depended on three main
232	decisions, namely whether to: (i) stay in the same landscape cell, (ii) move to a new
233	cell, or (iii) leave the study plot. First, the model computed the probability of leaving
234	the study plot (v) based on the distance to the nearest plot border (B):

235
$$logit(v) = a_0 + b_0 B$$
 (A1)

where a_0 and b_0 are parameters fitted to each bird species based on observed data. Given that the previous (*i*) rule is independent of habitat heterogeneity (e.g. distance to the nearest plot border, see below), we included the observational data for 2008, with the aim of assuring a larger sample size when fitting the model functions of each bird species.

Second, if simulated birds decided to stay in the plot, their decisions were
affected by; (*i*) distance between the current and the destination cell, (*ii*) the proportion

of forest cover, and (*iii*) the number of fruits at the destination cell. Thus, the model
computed a discrete probability distribution based on hyperbolic tangent functions [*tanh*(*x*)] as follows:

$$d_{i} = 1 - \tanh\left(\left(\delta_{ij}/a_{d}\right)^{b_{d}}\right)$$

$$c_{i} = \tanh\left(\left(\operatorname{cover}_{i}/a_{c}\right)^{b_{c}}\right)$$

$$f_{i} = \tanh\left(\left(\log\left(fruit_{i}+1\right)/a_{f}\right)^{b_{f}}\right)$$

$$\mathbf{k} = \frac{\left[\mathbf{d} \otimes \mathbf{c} \otimes \mathbf{f}\right]}{\sum\left[\mathbf{d} \otimes \mathbf{c} \otimes \mathbf{f}\right]}$$
(A2)

246 where the scale (i.e. a_d , a_c and a_f) and shape parameters (i.e. b_d , b_c and b_f) control the 247 shape of the probability between factors. These scale and shape parameters were estimated for each bird species based on observed bird trajectories, forest cover and fruit 248 249 abundances (Morales et al. 2013). The vectors **d**, **c** and **f** carry the probability of 250 choosing the *i*-th landscape cell depending on the distance to current location (*d*), forest cover (c) and fruit abundance (f), and they are multiplied in order to achieve a discrete 251 probability vector, **k**, of choosing landscape cells. Once the simulated birds decided 252 where to go, they flew at a constant speed of 6 m s^{-1} , following a straight line and the 253 Euclidean distance from the perch of origin to the destination perch. A maximum 254 number of six movements per track were permitted, as > 95% of sequences recorded in 255 256 the field were at or below that threshold.

257 *c)* Seed deposition events in microhabitats

258 Furthermore, we implemented the rules to predict seed deposition events into specific

259 microhabitats, as a mechanism combining (*i*) perching probability in the five

260 microhabitats and (*ii*) gut-passage time. The microhabitats considered in the current

version were; (a) under C. monogyna, (b) under I. aquifolium, (c) under T. baccata, (d)

under non-fleshy-fruited tree species and (*e*) in open microhabitat (e.g. pastures)

(Supplementary Material Appendix 2 Fig. A6). For each simulated track and cell, and
considering those microhabitats including fleshy-fruited tree species, the perch
probability depended on; (1) the foraging activity (based on fruit consumption and
movement across the landscape), (2) the number of fleshy fruits in a given cell, and (3)
the number of individuals of each tree species in a given cell (Supplementary Material
Appendix 2 Fig. A6). The perching probability (*k*) depending on the number of fruits
(B) and trees (C) is thus as follows:

$$logit(k) = a_o + b_o B + c_o C \qquad (A3)$$

where a_o , b_o and c_o are parameters fitted to each bird species based on observed data. In the case of depositions beneath non-fleshy-fruited trees or in open microhabitat, the perching probability (*k*) in relation to the number of non-fleshy fruited trees or the proportion of forest cover (*B*) is as follows:

 $logit(k) = a_o + b_o B \qquad (A4)$

where a_o and b_o are parameters fitted to each bird species. For each microhabitat and bird species, we thus obtained estimates from the best model and generated perching probability events based on logistic distributions (Supplementary Material Appendix 2 Fig. A6).

Secondly and based on previous studies in the same area and study system (García et al. 2007), we considered that seeds of a given tree species had a higher probability of arrival beneath the microhabitat representing a tree of that same species (i.e. deposition under conspecifics). We therefore considered the probability of perching in conspecifics (i.e. the same fleshy-fruited species previously consumed) as 0.4, 0.8 and 0.5 for *C. monogyna, I. aquifolium T. baccata*, respectively. In essence, this rule mimics a phenomenological matching between the fruiting time of each tree species and its higher perching probability in conspecifics, which may be a consequence of the morelimited crop of the other fleshy-fruited species at that time.

289	For every frugivore event, ingested seeds have a certain gut-passage time (GPT)
290	inside the bird. GPT distributions were fitted to empirical data based on experimental
291	retention times of 18 hand-raised and captive wild specimens of Turdus merula (Sobral,
292	Larrinaga and Santamaría, unpublished data). GPTs were drawn from a Gamma
293	distribution with a common shape parameter (i.e. 1.59), but a bird species-specific scale
294	parameter (i.e. 0.029 to 0.074; Supplementary Material Appendix 2 Table A2) based on
295	the relationship between the body size and GPT of each Turdus species, using eight
296	species from Turdidae and Sylviidae (Herrera 1984; see Morales et al. 2013).

Table A2. Coefficients of GPT for different species of thrushes based on body size and
with reference to *Turdus merula* GPT.

Species	Body size (g)*	mean GPT estimate	Rate for Gamma distribution [†]
T. iliacus	65	21.45	0.0740
T. merula	100	39.34	0.0400
T. philomelos	75	26.57	0.0598
T. pilaris	110	44.45	0.0357
T. torquatus	120	49.56	0.0320
T. viscivorus	130	54.67	0.0290

299 * From Collar (2005)

300 † Assuming the shape parameter is 1.59, the same as in the Gamma distribution fitted to the data from

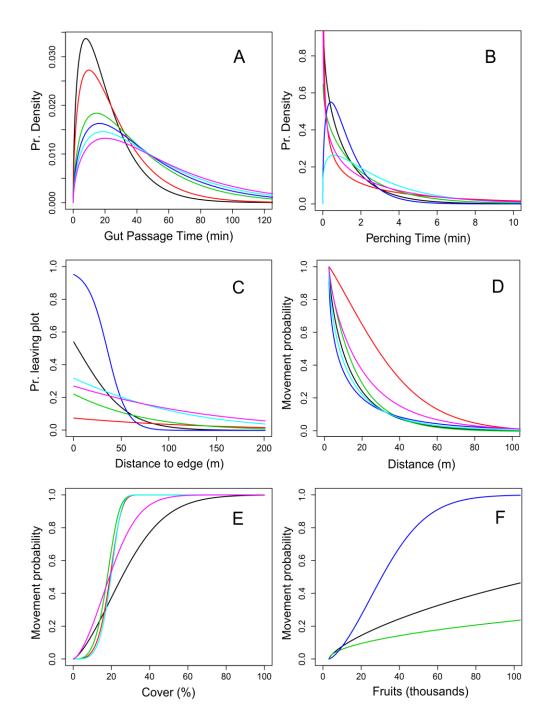
- 301 *Turdus merula* in Morales *et al.* 2013.
- 302

Finally, seed deposition events in the five microhabitats occurred once frugivory and perching had occurred, and once gut-passage time had expired. Each simulated bird deposited all the seeds consumed in a single deposition event. The number of seeds per deposition was always considered to be one, except for *I. aquifolium*, where the number 307 of seeds deposited was corrected to account for the probability of having between 1 and
308 4 seeds per fruit, based on Obeso (1998).

309 d) General considerations and model output

310 We obtained each model output (i.e. seed deposition data) as a spatially-explicit (cell-311 and microhabitat-based) prediction of seed deposition for each tree species and by each 312 bird species, that is, a multi-specific seed rain across the modeled landscape. Each model output was the result of a simulation accounting for 5000 bird tracks, and the 313 simulations were replicated 30 times (i.e. 30 independent model outputs), for each of 314 315 the two different year scenarios (2009 and 2010). These year scenarios accounted for 316 the field-based values of fruit availability and bird abundance of the different species in 317 the respective years. We finally selected the seed deposition output corresponding to a 318 subset of 220 cells of the modeling landscape, in equivalent positions to those 319 containing seed deposition and seedling establishment sampling stations in the field 320 (Supplementary material Appendix 1, Fig. A1.C). The data of each seed deposition output, accounting for tree-bird and tree-321 322 microhabitat specific information, were pooled across microhabitats. In this way we 323 obtained a seed deposition matrix which accounted for the number of seeds of each of the different tree species which were dispersed by each bird species. For each year 324

scenario, we thus obtained 30 matrices of simulated seed deposition (Fig. 1D).



327 Figure A5. Model functions fitted to different species of thrushes for perching time, movement 328 probabilities and gut-passage time. Gut-passage time (A) is Gamma distributed with scale parameter 329 related to bird size. Perching time (B) is Gamma distributed and fitted to data from direct observations. 330 The probability of leaving the study plot (C) decreased with distance to the plot edge. Movement to 331 another landscape cell (D) decreased with increased distance to that cell. Movement probability increased 332 with forest cover and with fruits (E and F). The species of thrushes are: Turdus iliacus (black), T. 333 philomelos (red), T. merula (green), T. piralis (blue), T. torquatus (cyan) and T. viscivorus (magenta). (A) 334 and (C) were fitted with observational data collected during 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, as in Morales et al 335 (2013); (B) during 2008, 2009, 2010; and (D), (E), and (F) with observational data collected during 2009, 336 2010 because they corresponded to functions depending on landscape characteristics and, thus, could vary 337 between years.

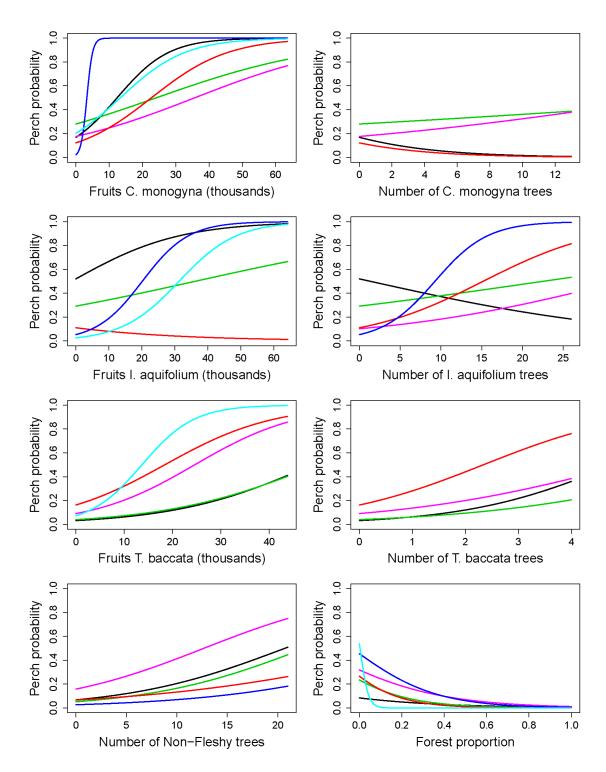


Figure A6. Mechanistic functions describing perching probability beneath microhabitats for each *Turdus*species. For each microhabitat, we calculated perching probability as a function of fruits and number of
trees of *C. monogyna* (first row), *I. aquifolium* (second row), and *T. baccata* (third row). For non-fleshyfruited trees (fourth row, left) deposition probabilities only depended on the number of trees, whereas the
probability of deposition in the open (fourth row, right) was calculated as a function of the proportion of
forest cover. The *Turdus* species are: *T. iliacus* (black), *T. philomelos* (red), *T. merula* (green), *T. piralis*(blue), *T. torquatus* (cyan) and *T. viscivorus* (magenta).

348 **REFERENCES**

- Bolker B. and R Development Core Team 2014. *bbmle*: Tools for general maximum
- 350 likelihood estimation. R package version 1.0.17. http://CRAN.R-
- 351 project.org/package=bbmle
- 352 Collar, N. J. 2005. Family Turdidae (Thrushes). Pp. 514-807 in del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A.
- 353 & Christie, D. A. Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 10. Cuckoo-shrikes to
- 354 Thrushes. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- 355 García, D. et al. 2007. Seed transfer among bird-dispersed trees and its consequences
- for post-dispersal seed fate. Basic Appl. Ecol. 8: 533–543
- 357 García, D. et al. 2013. Functional heterogeneity in a plant-frugivore assemblage
- enhances seed dispersal resilience to habitat loss. Ecography 36: 197–208
- Herrera, C.M. 1984. Adaptation to frugivory of Mediterranean avian seed dispersers. Ecology 65: 609–617
- 361 Morales, J. M. et al. 2013. Frugivore behavioural details matter for seed dispersal: A
- 362 multi-species model for Cantabrian thrushes and trees. PLoS One 8: e65216.
- Nelder, J.A. and Mead, R. 1965. A simplex method for function minimization. -*Computer Journal*. 7: 303-313
- 365 Obeso, J.R. 1998. Patterns of variation in *Ilex aquifolium* fruit traits related to fruit
- 366 consumption by birds and seed predation by rodents. EcoScience 5 (4): 463-469
- 367 R Development Core Team 2013. R: a Language and Environment for Statistical
- 368 Computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna.
- 369

Appendix S3 – Matrices

Table A3. Tree-microhabitat observed seed deposition matrices. Relative abundance of seeds (in %) of different tree species (rows) deposited
 by frugivorous birds in different microhabitats (columns) for 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). The total number of observed seeds per fleshy-fruited tree
 species under study is specified in the last column.

(a) 2009	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seeds
Crataegus. monogyna	30.46	40.61	5.31	14.99	8.62	847
Ilex aquifolium	9.58	69.56	2.28	12.69	5.88	32131
Taxus baccata	18.49	27.92	35.89	11.62	6.07	1368
75						
76						
76 (b) 2010	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seeds
	Under C. monogyna 29.75	Under I. aquifolium 47.98	Under T. baccata 4.22	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree 6.53	Open 11.52	No. seeds 3126
(b) 2010		A V		•	-	

Table A4. Tree-microhabitat first transition probability. *Seedling emergence rates* for the different tree species (rows) in different
 microhabitats (columns), corresponding to two seed cohorts, 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). *Seedling emergence rates* were calculated as the proportion
 of dispersed seeds from which a seedling emerged after an 18 months post-dispersal period.

(a) 2009	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open
Crataegus. monogyna	1.000	0.493	0.364	0.370	1.000
Ilex aquifolium	0.117	0.049	0.109	0.100	0.476
Taxus baccata	0.077	0.017	0.017	0.238	0.000
382					
383					
(b) 2010	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open

	ender e. monogyna	ender 1. uquijoitum	Childer 1. Ducculu	ender non nesny nuned nee	open
Crataegus. monogyna	0.789	0.324	0.364	0.622	1.000
Ilex aquifolium	0.192	0.168	0.093	0.809	1.000
Taxus baccata	0.042	0.082	0.008	0.050	0.062

Table A5. Tree-microhabitat second transition probability. *Seedling survival rates* for different tree species (rows) in different microhabitats
 (columns), corresponding to two seed cohorts, 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). *Seedling survival rates* were calculated as the proportion of emerged
 seedlings which survived to the end of the summer season.

(a) 2009	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open
Crataegus. monogyna	0.386	0.413	0.250	0.500	0.458
Ilex aquifolium	0.550	0.352	0.461	0.516	0.193
Taxus baccata	1.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000
9					
9 (b) 2010	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open
(b) 2010	Under C. monogyna 0.224	Under I. aquifolium 0.247	Under <i>T. baccata</i> 0.125	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree 0.357	Ĩ
				•	Open 0.295 0.203

Table A6. Tree-microhabitat predicted seed deposition matrices. Relative abundance of simulated seeds (in %) of the different tree species
 (rows) deposited by frugivorous birds in different microhabitats (columns) for 2009 (a) and 2010 (b).

Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seeds
34.76	31.25	11.72	10.94	11.33	256
2.70	90.73	3.01	2.26	1.30	3227
7.32	31.71	43.90	12.19	4.88	41
Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seeds
43.11	22.17	17.20	8.57	8.95	1610
4.02		4.50	2.00	1.00	1710
4.03	87.15	4.50	3.09	1.23	1712
	34.76 2.70 7.32 Under <i>C. monogyna</i> 43.11	34.76 31.25 2.70 90.73 7.32 31.71 Under C. monogyna Under I. aquifolium 43.11 22.17	34.76 31.25 11.72 2.70 90.73 3.01 7.32 31.71 43.90 Under <i>I. aquifolium</i> 43.11 22.17 17.20	34.76 31.25 11.72 10.94 2.70 90.73 3.01 2.26 7.32 31.71 43.90 12.19 Under C. monogyna Under I. aquifolium Under T. baccata Under non-fleshy-fruited tree 43.11 22.17 17.20 8.57	34.76 31.25 11.72 10.94 11.33 2.70 90.73 3.01 2.26 1.30 7.32 31.71 43.90 12.19 4.88 Under <i>I. aquifolium</i> Under <i>T. baccata</i> Under non-fleshy-fruited tree Open 43.11 22.17 17.20 8.57 8.95

Table A7. Tree-microhabitat predicted seedling recruitment matrices. Relative abundance of simulated seedlings (in %) of the different
 tree species (rows) recruited by frugivorous birds in different microhabitats (columns) for 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). The total number of predicted
 seedling recruited per tree species is specified in the last column.

(a) 2009	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seedlings
Crataegus. monogyna	47.89	22.54	4.22	7.04	18.31	71
Ilex aquifolium	8.69	72.46	7.25	5.80	5.80	69
Taxus baccata	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	2
02 (a) 2010	Under C monogyna	Under Laquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No seedlings
(a) 2010	Under <i>C. monogyna</i> 52.13	Under I. aquifolium	Under <i>T. baccata</i>	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seedlings
(a) 2010 Crataegus. monogyna Ilex aquifolium	Under <i>C. monogyna</i> 52.13 5.35	Under <i>I. aquifolium</i> 11.97 74.81	Under <i>T. baccata</i> 5.13 2.29	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree 12.82 14.50	Open 17.95 3.05	No. seedlings 234 131

Table A8. Bird-microhabitat predicted seed deposition matrices. Relative abundance of seeds (in %) deposited by each of the frugivorous
 bird species (rows) in the different microhabitats (columns) for 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). The total number of predicted seeds deposited by each
 bird species is specified in the last column.

(a) 2009	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seeds
T. iliacus	2.74	93.85	1.27	1.81	0.33	1495
T. merula	8.56	86.24	2.01	1.51	1.68	596
T. viscivorus	10.45	70.65	3.98	9.95	4.97	201
T. philomelos	5.34	78.29	8.74	3.81	3.82	1179
T. pilaris	0.00	94.12	0.00	0.00	5.88	17
T. torquatus	8.57	65.71	8.57	14.29	2.86	35

Table A8 cont. Bird-microhabitat predicted seed deposition matrices. Relative abundance of seeds (in %) deposited by each of the
 frugivorous bird species (rows) in the different microhabitats (columns) for 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). The total number of predicted seeds
 deposited by each bird species is specified in the last column.

(b) 2010	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seeds
T. iliacus	25.54	65.76	3.26	4.35	1.09	184
T. merula	31.60	58.84	2.49	3.95	3.12	481
T. viscivorus	29.10	44.44	6.88	12.17	7.41	189
T. philomelos	19.76	53.87	15.29	5.74	5.34	2545
T. pilaris	50.00	41.67	0.00	0.00	8.33	12
T. torquatus	45.46	27.27	9.09	18.18	0.00	22

Table A9. Bird-microhabitat predicted seedling recruitment matrices. Relative abundance of seedlings (in %) recruited by each of the
 frugivorous bird species (rows) in the different microhabitats (columns) for 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). The total number of predicted seedlings
 recruited by each bird species is specified in the last column.

(a) 2009	Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seedlings
T. iliacus	21.28	68.09	2.13	4.25	4.25	47
T. merula	44.45	40.74	3.70	3.70	7.41	27
T. viscivorus	40.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	10
T. philomelos	25.00	35.72	10.71	8.93	19.64	56
T. pilaris	33.33	33.33	0.00	0.00	33.33	3
T. torquatus	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	5

Table A9 cont. Bird-microhabitat predicted seedling recruitment matrices. Relative abundance of seedlings (in %) recruited by each of the
 frugivorous bird species (rows) in the different microhabitats (columns) for 2009 (a) and 2010 (b). The total number of predicted seedlings
 recruited by each bird species is specified in the last column.

Under C. monogyna	Under I. aquifolium	Under T. baccata	Under non-fleshy-fruited tree	Open	No. seedlings
44.44	44.44	0.00	11.11	0.00	18
49.06	35.85	0.00	7.55	7.55	53
37.50	20.83	0.00	25.00	16.67	24
31.83	34.83	5.62	13.48	14.23	267
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1
66.66	0.00	0.00	33.33	0.00	3
	44.44 49.06 37.50 31.83 100.00	44.44 44.44 49.06 35.85 37.50 20.83 31.83 34.83 100.00 0.00	44.44 44.44 0.00 49.06 35.85 0.00 37.50 20.83 0.00 31.83 34.83 5.62 100.00 0.00 0.00	44.44 44.44 0.00 11.11 49.06 35.85 0.00 7.55 37.50 20.83 0.00 25.00 31.83 34.83 5.62 13.48 100.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	44.44 44.44 0.00 11.11 0.00 49.06 35.85 0.00 7.55 7.55 37.50 20.83 0.00 25.00 16.67 31.83 34.83 5.62 13.48 14.23 100.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00