

Bon appétit, Robin!

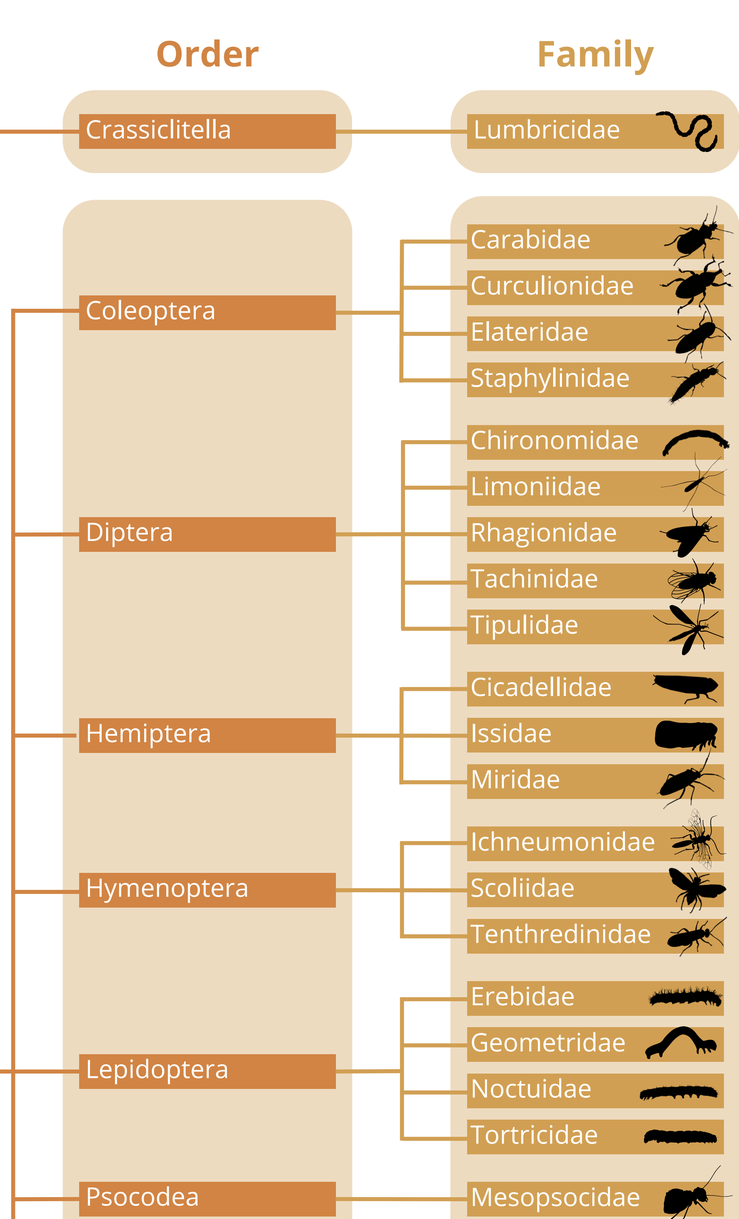
Exploring age-class variation in the European robin diet

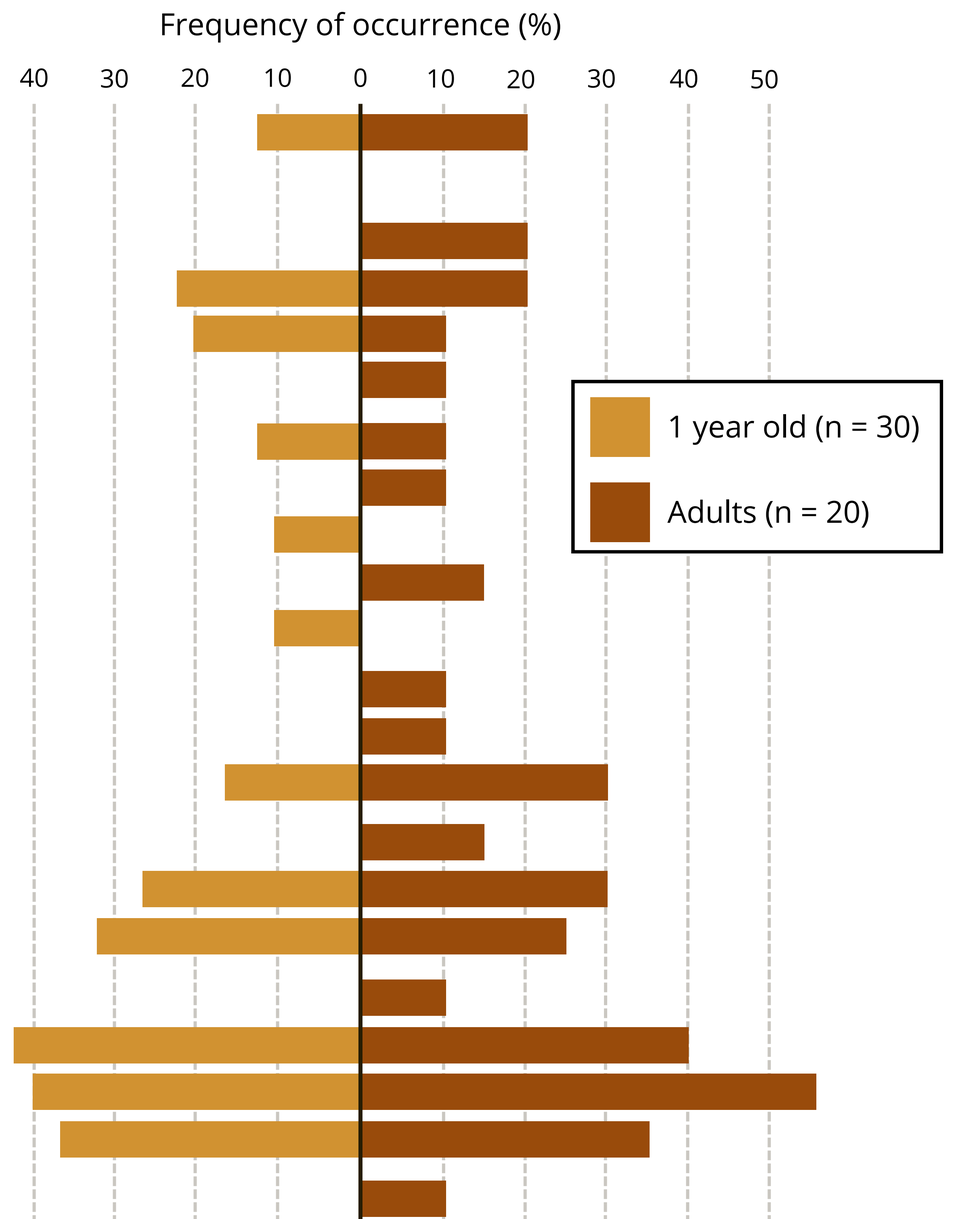
Camille Valle

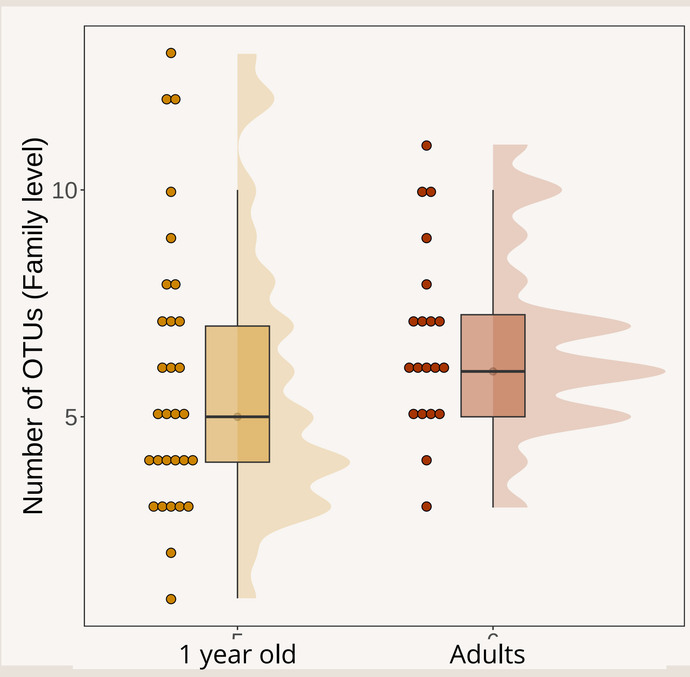


The **diet of European robins** (*Erithacus rubecula*) was assessed in a partial migratory population through **metabarcoding** of DNA extracted from fecal samples collected in Spring 2024. DNA fragments were amplified using the mitochondrial cytochrome *c* oxidase subunit 1 gene and identified with the BOLD database.

We investigated the differences between age groups. **Diet can vary as a bird grows up**, due to increased foraging experience or changes in energetic requirements.

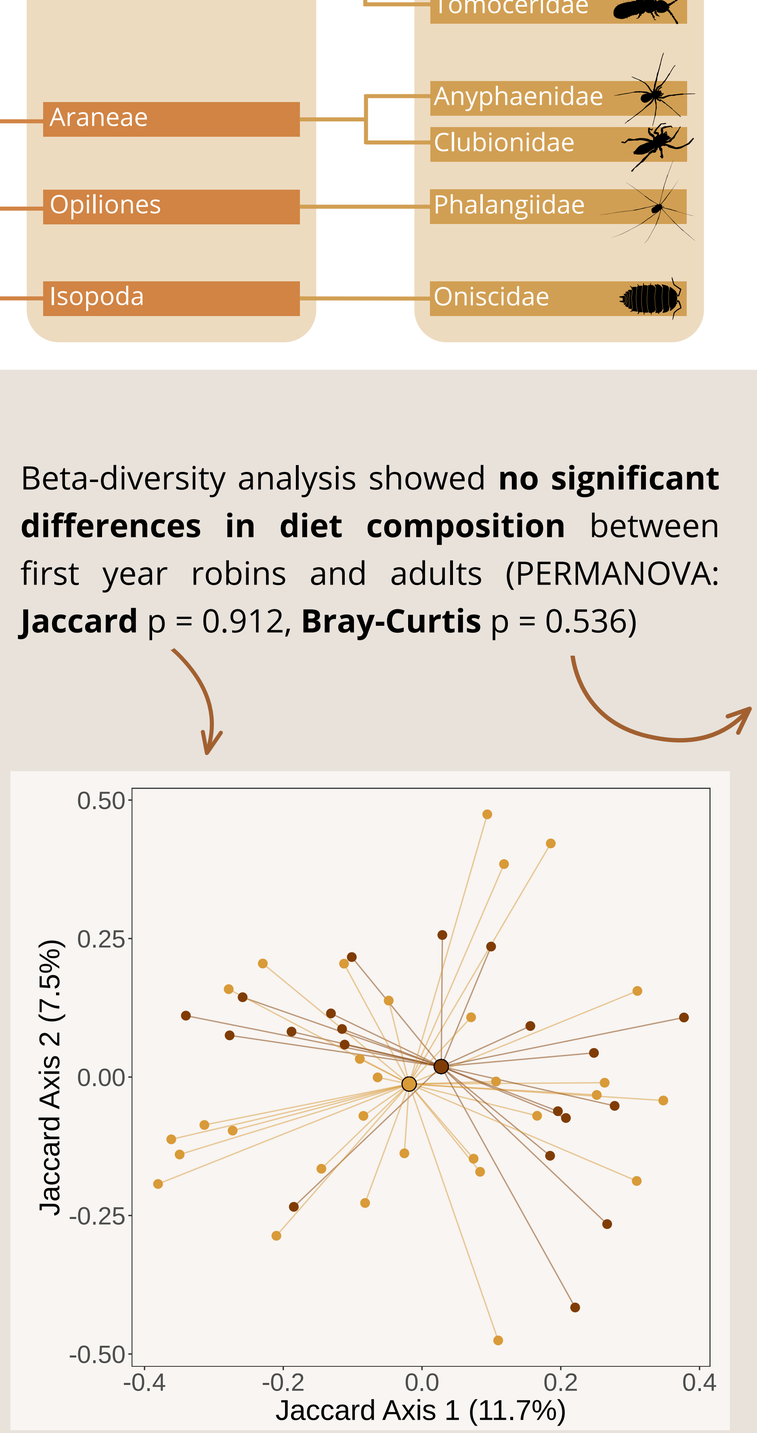


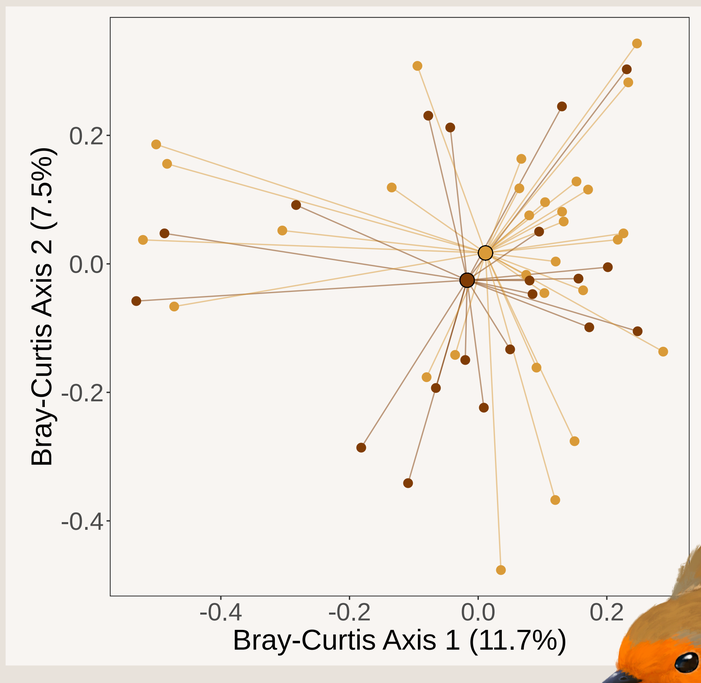


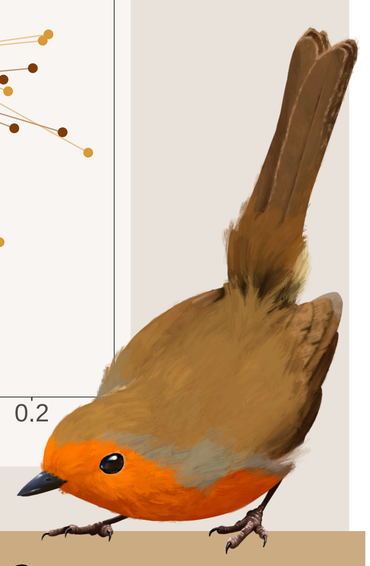


No significant differences were found in the number of families present in the diet of first year robins compared to adults (LM: p = 0.264)

Beta-diversity analysis showed **no significant differences in diet composition** between first year robins and adults (PERMANOVA: **Jaccard** p = 0.912, **Bray-Curtis** p = 0.536)







What are the next steps?

→ I will use **differential abundance analysis** to identify whether any particular family is more abundant in the diet of either age group.

→ I will apply the same analysis workflow to **habitat and mercury data** to test for putative links between diet and contamination.

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