



CESAB
CENTRE DE SYNTHÈSE ET D'ANALYSE
SUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ

Biodiversity knowledge synthesis: an introduction to meta-analyses and systematic reviews

Quantitative data extraction

October 2024 - Montpellier

Dakis-Yaoba Ouédraogo (PhD)
dakis.ouedraogo@gmail.com



Extraction of quantitative data

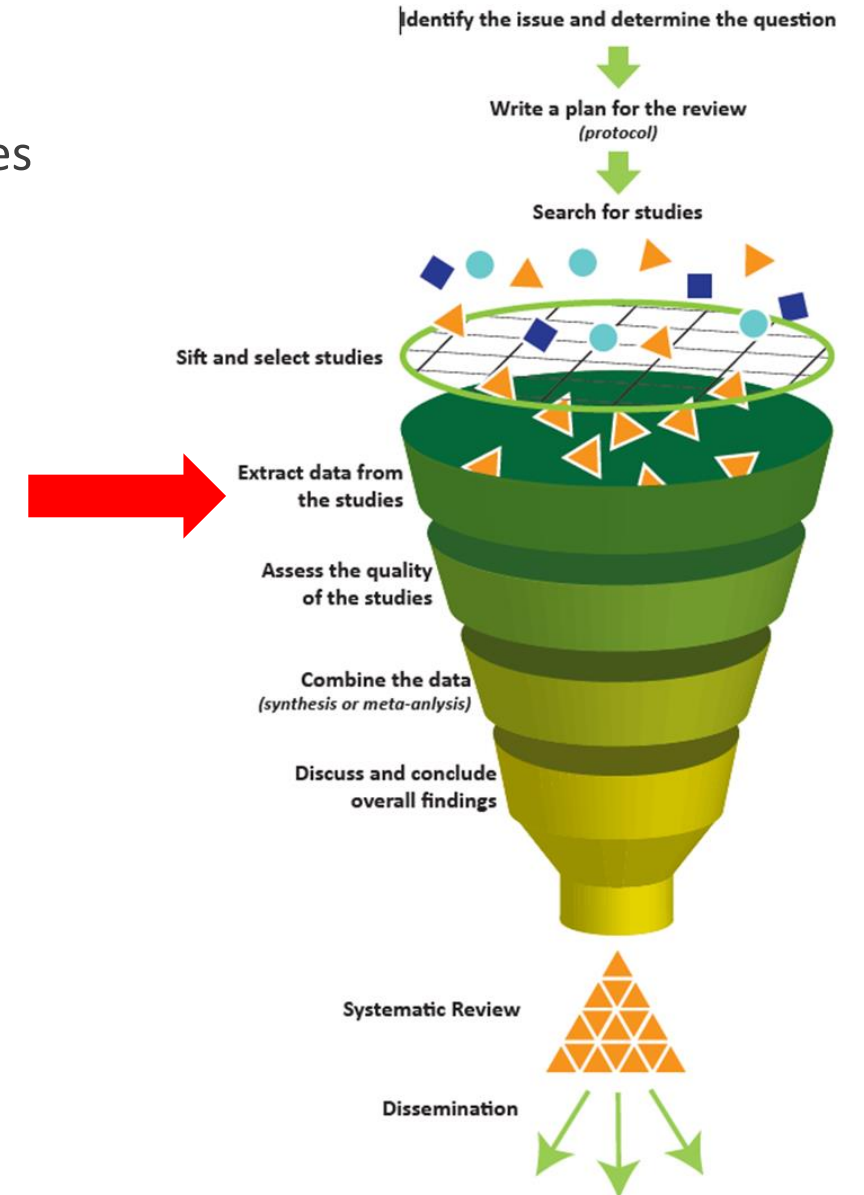
Extraction of the data needed to calculate effect sizes
(e.g. mean, sample size, sd/se/95% CI)

+ extraction of variables that could explain the heterogeneity of effect sizes (*effect modifiers*)

Extraction from

- text
- table
- figure
- supp. mat.

+ calculations may be needed (keep a record)



Extraction of quantitative data

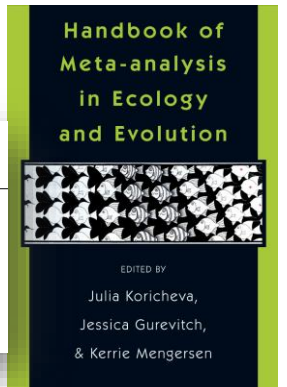
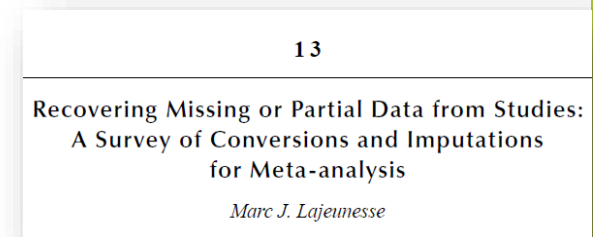
! Warning !

Data extraction is time-consuming: clearly define the extraction grid and the effect modifiers to be extracted

Importance of **testing** the extraction sheet on a sample of articles to check that it matches the content of the studies

Document the work/decisions (transparency, repeatability)

Decide what to do in case of **missing information** ("missing data", contact the authors, imputation)



Consistency check

To be sure that data extraction is objective / robust:

- Data extraction of each study carried out **independently** by 2 people
- if several people share the work, **check the consistency of data extraction** between people on a sample before starting the actual extraction (discuss any disagreements)
- if only 1 person, have someone to check a sample of the extracted data at the start of the work (discuss any disagreements)

Example of extraction sheet

A study = a taxon × an exposure × an outcome

Case study level: ex. several concentrations of a chemical

IDdata	ID_map	author	...	taxon	Population_descri	Life_stage	Type_system	Tempera	pH
ScreenTA_9680	880	Cantin, N.E. ...		<i>Acropora tenuis</i>	Colonies	Adult	500 L outdoor tank	27.5	NA
ScreenTA_9680	880	Cantin, N.E. ...		<i>Acropora tenuis</i>	Colonies	Adult	500 L outdoor tank	27.5	NA
ScreenTA_9680	884	Cantin, N.E. ...		<i>Acropora valida</i>	Colonies	Adult	500 L outdoor tank	27.5	NA
ScreenTA_9680	884	Cantin, N.E. ...		<i>Acropora valida</i>	Colonies	Adult	500 L outdoor tank	27.5	NA
ScreenTA_9680	889	Cantin, N.E. ...		<i>Pocillopora damicornis</i>	Colonies	Adult	500 L outdoor tank	27.5	NA
ScreenTA_9680	889	Cantin, N.E. ...		<i>Pocillopora damicornis</i>	Colonies	Adult	500 L outdoor tank	27.5	NA

Treatment_description	Control_description	Solvent	Concentration_nom	Concentration_eff	Duration	Measured_variable	Time_after
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	1 µg/L	0.91 µg/L	53 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	10 µg/L	8.8 µg/L	53 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	1 µg/L	0.91 µg/L	90 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	10 µg/L	8.8 µg/L	90 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	1 µg/L	0.91 µg/L	67 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	10 µg/L	8.8 µg/L	67 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA

Example of extraction sheet

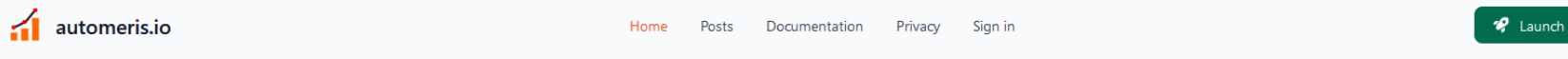
Treatment_description	Control_description	Solvent	Concentration_nom	Concentration_eff	Duration	Measured_variable	Time_after
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	1 µg/L	0.91 µg/L	53 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	10 µg/L	8.8 µg/L	53 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	1 µg/L	0.91 µg/L	90 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	10 µg/L	8.8 µg/L	90 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	1 µg/L	0.91 µg/L	67 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA
Diuron	Unfiltered oceanic seawater	No	10 µg/L	8.8 µg/L	67 days	Symbiodinium density / total protein	NA

Metaanalyse_data	unit	ID_experiment	ID_case	ID_common_control	N_c	Mean_c	Type_variation_c	Variation_c	N_t	Mean_t	Type_variation_t	Variation_t
OK (Fig3, SE, n=6)	x 10 ⁶ / mg protein	1	3	1	6	4.2	sd	1.714642819	6	3.5142857	sd	0.979795897
OK (Fig3, SE, n=6)	x 10 ⁶ / mg protein	1	4	1	6	4.2	sd	1.714642819	6	3.6	sd	0.524890659
OK (Fig3, SE, n=6)	x 10 ⁶ / mg protein	2	7	2	6	0.928571	sd	0.454905237	6	1.4142857	sd	0.979795897
OK (Fig3, SE, n=6)	x 10 ⁶ / mg protein	2	8	2	6	0.928571	sd	0.454905237	6	1.3142857	sd	0.699854212
OK (Fig3, SE, n=6)	x 10 ⁶ / mg protein	3	11	3	6	1.714285	sd	0.699854212	6	2.2285714	sd	0.699854212
OK (Fig3, SE, n=6)	x 10 ⁶ / mg protein	3	12	3	6	1.714285	sd	0.699854212	6	0.9142857	sd	0.244948974

Method_extraction	Source	Comment_extraction	Name_data_extraction
Figure	Figure 3	NA	DYO
Figure	Figure 3	NA	DYO
Figure	Figure 3	NA	DYO
Figure	Figure 3	NA	DYO
Figure	Figure 3	NA	DYO
Figure	Figure 3	NA	DYO

Tools for extracting data from figures

WebPlotDigitizer <https://automeris.io/WebPlotDigitizer/>



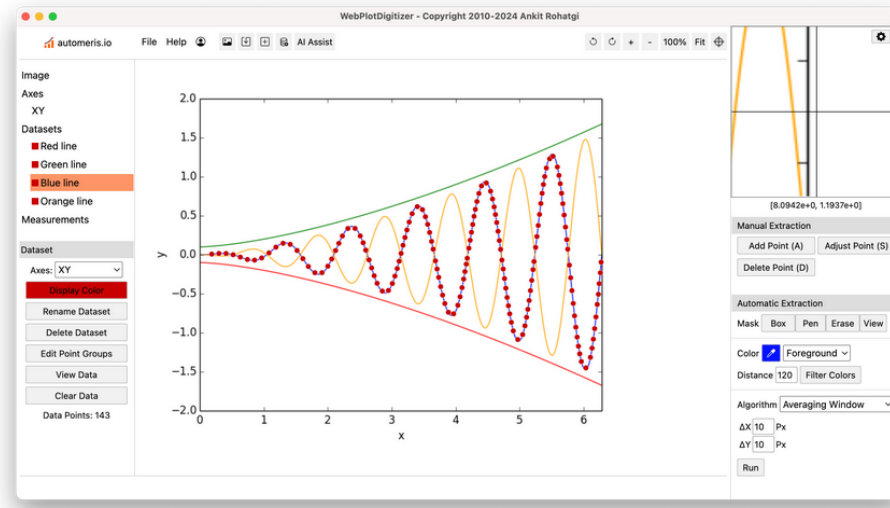
Extract data from charts

A large quantity of useful data is locked away in images of data visualizations. WebPlotDigitizer is a computer vision assisted software that helps extract numerical data from images of a variety of data visualizations.

Launch v5

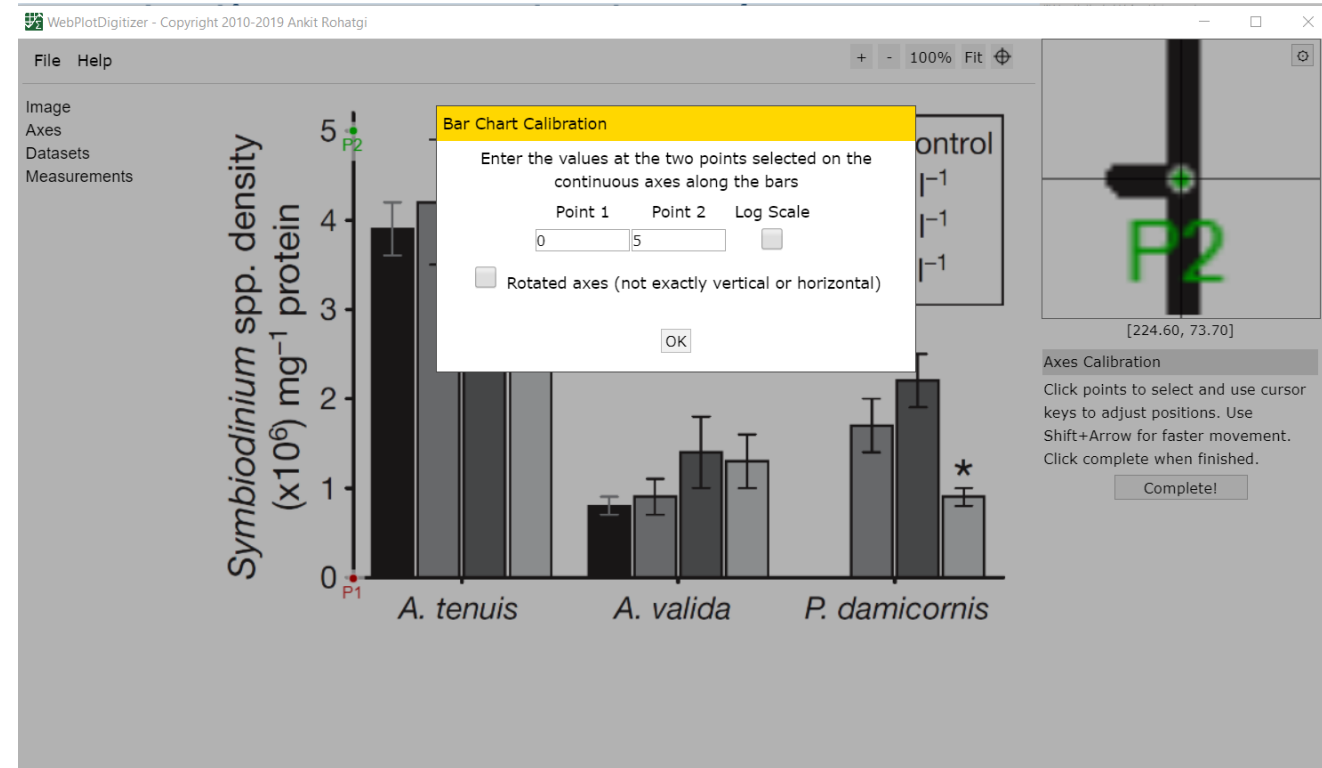
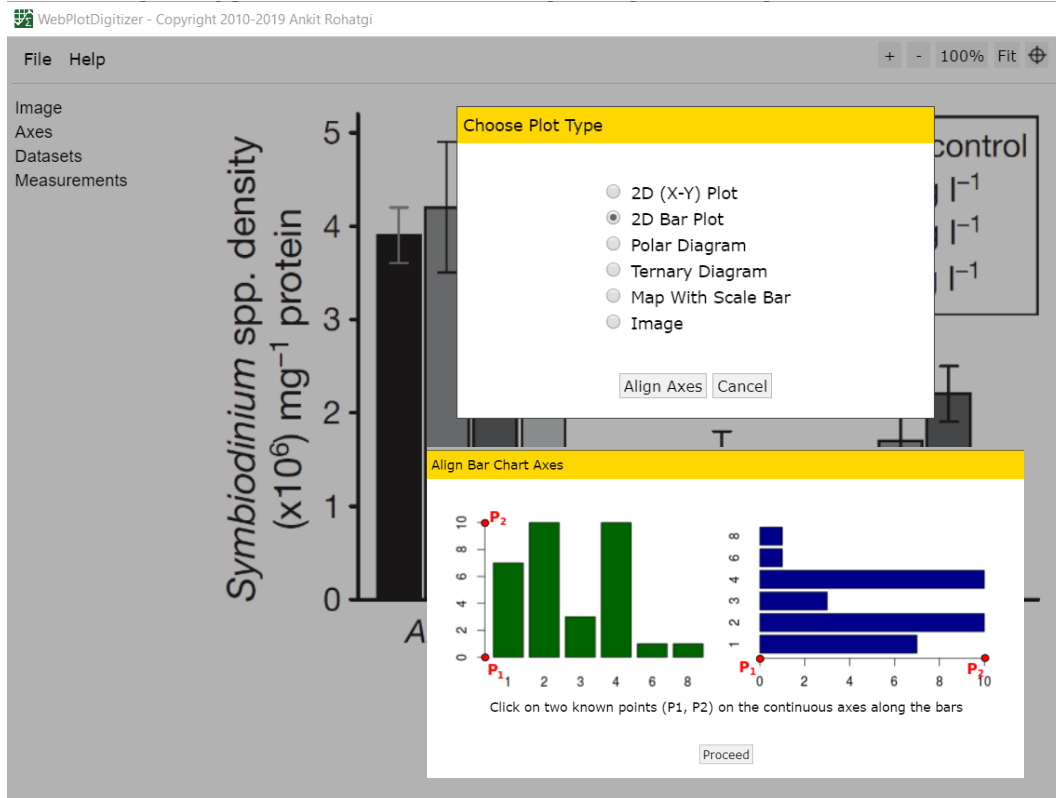
[Learn more about the latest version \(v5\)](#)

[Access archived v4](#)



New version v5
(experimental) with
AI Assist extraction

Tools for extracting data from figures



Tools for extracting data from figures

WebPlotDigitizer - Copyright 2010-2019 Ankit Rohatgi

File Help

Image

Axes

Bar

Datasets

Default Dataset

Measurements

Dataset

Axes: Bar

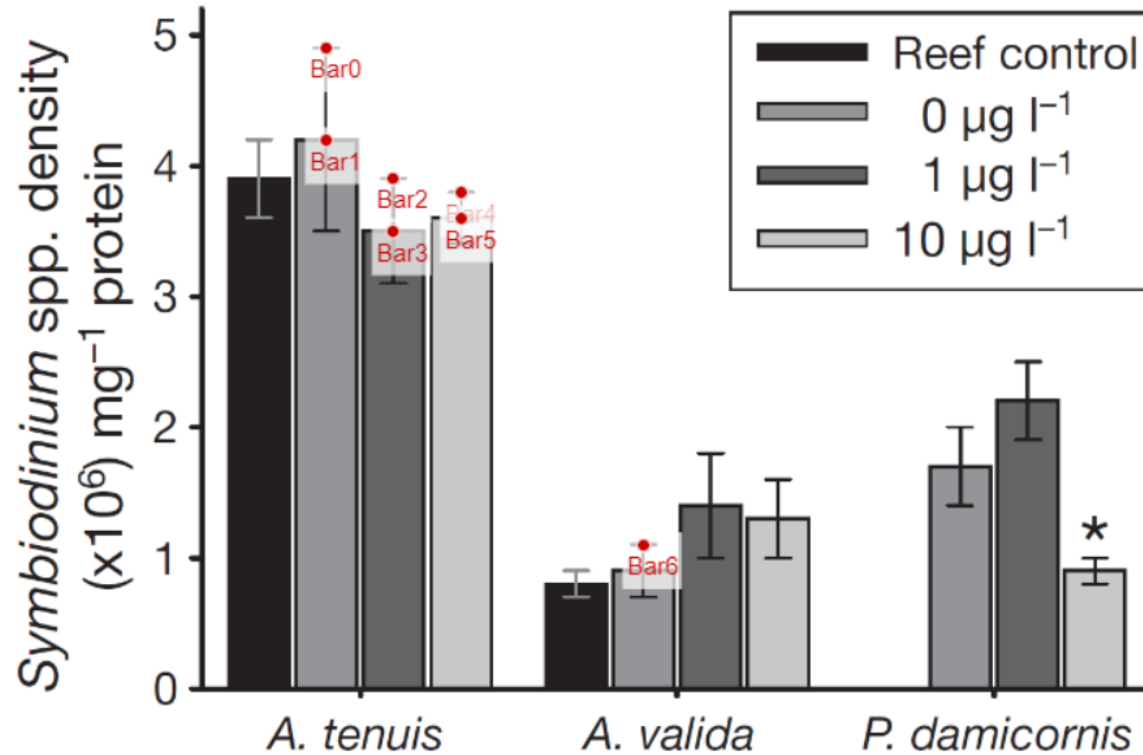
Rename Dataset

Delete Dataset

View Data

Clear Data

Data Points: 7



Manual Extraction

Add Point (A)

Adjust Point (S)

Delete Point (D)

Edit Labels (E)

Automatic Extraction

Mask

Box

Pen

Erase

View

Color Foreground Color

Distance 120

Filter Colors

Algorithm Bar Extraction

ΔX 30 Px

ΔVal 10 Px

Run

Tools for extracting data from figures

Plotdigitizer <https://plotdigitizer.com/>

PlotDigitizer Free Online App Features Download Buy Now

All-in-One Tool to Extract Data from Graphs, Plots & Images

Plotdigitizer is an online data extraction tool that allows users to extract data from images in numerical format. In short, it reverse-engineers your visual graphs into numbers. The software comes with plenty of useful and time-saving features.

Launch App Buy Now

Symbiodinium spp. density ($\times 10^6$) mg⁻¹ protein

Legend:
 - Reef control (black bar)
 - 0 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (light grey bar)
 - 1 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (dark grey bar)
 - 10 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (medium grey bar)

Species	Reef control	0 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$	1 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$	10 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$
<i>A. tenuis</i>	~3.9	~4.2	~3.5	~3.6
<i>A. valida</i>	~0.8	~0.9	~1.4	~1.3
<i>P. damicornis</i>	~0	~1.7	~2.2	~0.9*

X1: Reciprocal
X2:
Y1: 0
Y2: 5

Tools for extracting data from figures: metaDigitise

Received: 13 July 2018 | Accepted: 12 October 2018

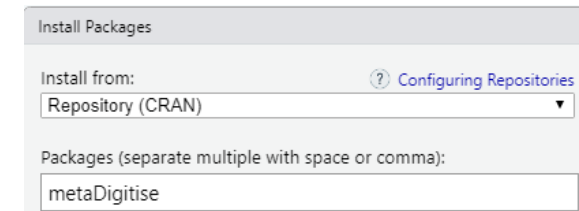
DOI: 10.1111/2041-210X.13118

APPLICATION

Methods in Ecology and Evolution 

Reproducible, flexible and high-throughput data extraction from primary literature: The METADIGITISE R package

Joel L. Pick  | Shinichi Nakagawa | Daniel W. A. Noble 



(+) possible to save, trace and modify data extraction

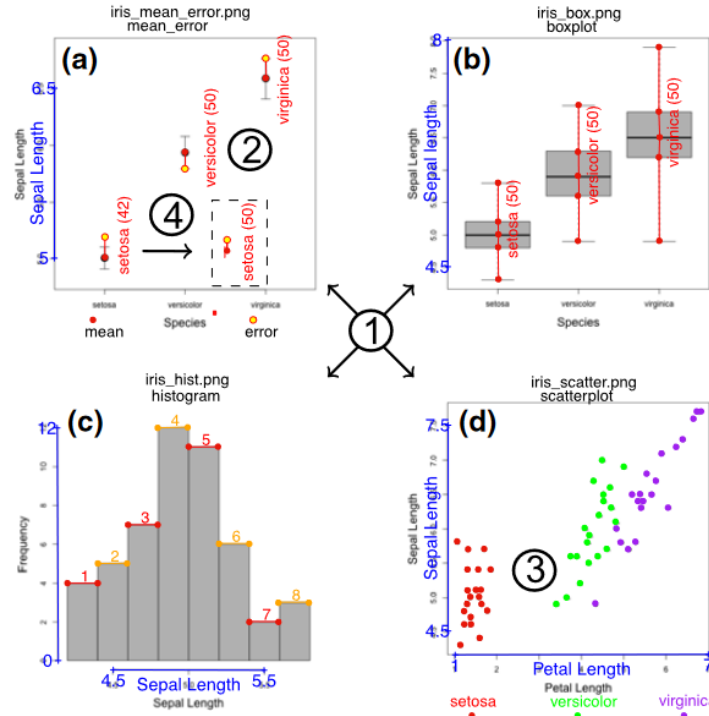
(-) no zoom

<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/metaDigitise/vignettes/metaDigitise.html>

Tools for extracting data from figures: metaDigitise

metaDigitise

Plot interface



Data output

filename	variable	group_id	mean	sd	n	r	plot_type
iris_box.png	Sepal length	setosa	5.01	0.317	50	NA	boxplot
iris_box.png	Sepal length	versicolor	5.93	0.497	50	NA	boxplot
iris_box.png	Sepal length	virginica	6.49	0.603	50	NA	boxplot
iris_hist.png	Sepal Length	setosa	4.95	0.364	50	NA	histogram
iris_mean_error.png	Sepal Length	setosa	5.01	0.680	50	NA	mean_error
iris_mean_error.png	Sepal Length	versicolor	5.94	1.025	50	NA	mean_error
iris_mean_error.png	Sepal Length	virginica	6.59	1.251	50	NA	mean_error
iris_scatter.png	Petal Length	setosa	1.44	0.215	20	0.109	scatterplot
iris_scatter.png	Sepal Length	setosa	5.03	0.427	20	0.109	scatterplot
iris_scatter.png	Petal Length	versicolor	4.29	0.415	20	0.786	scatterplot
iris_scatter.png	Sepal Length	versicolor	5.97	0.603	20	0.786	scatterplot
iris_scatter.png	Petal Length	virginica	5.66	0.668	20	0.932	scatterplot

FUNCTIONALITY

① Different plot types

Capable of handling A) mean error plots, B) boxplots, C) histograms and D) scatterplots

② Entry of Metadata

Enter sample sizes variable and group names while digitising that are displayed on plot

③ Grouped Data

Enter as many groups as needed to capture descriptive statistics for sub-samples of data

④ Digitise, edit or replot digitisations

Simple user interface to guide user. Can digitise new images, edit digitisations or easily replot previous digitisations and metadata by cycling through images or choosing specific images

⑤ Summarising data

Get descriptive statistics automatically calculated for all plot types or use raw x,y data, if desired

⑥ Multiple image processing

Process as many images at once as needed and of varying types efficiently and quickly. New plots automatically plotted for digitisation

Tools for extracting data from figures: metaDigitise

```
> dat <- metaDigitise(dir = "./figs")

Do you want to...

1: Process new images
2: Import existing data
3: Edit existing data

Sélection : 1

Are all plot types Different or the Same? (d/s)
s

Please specify the plot_type as either:

m: Mean and error
b: Box plot
s: Scatter plot
h: Histogram

m

**** NEW PLOT ****

mean_error and boxplots should be vertically orientated

  |
  | I.E. o   NOT  |-o-|
  |
  |
  |

If they are not then chose flip to correct this.

If figures are wonky, chose rotate.

Otherwise chose continue

Flip, rotate or continue (f/r/c)
c
```

```
What is the y variable?
Fv/Fm

On the Figure, click IN ORDER:
y1, y2

Step 1 ----> Click on known value on y axis - y1

|
|
|
|
|
y1
|_____

Step 2 ----> Click on another known value on y axis - y2

|
|
|
|
|
y2
|_____

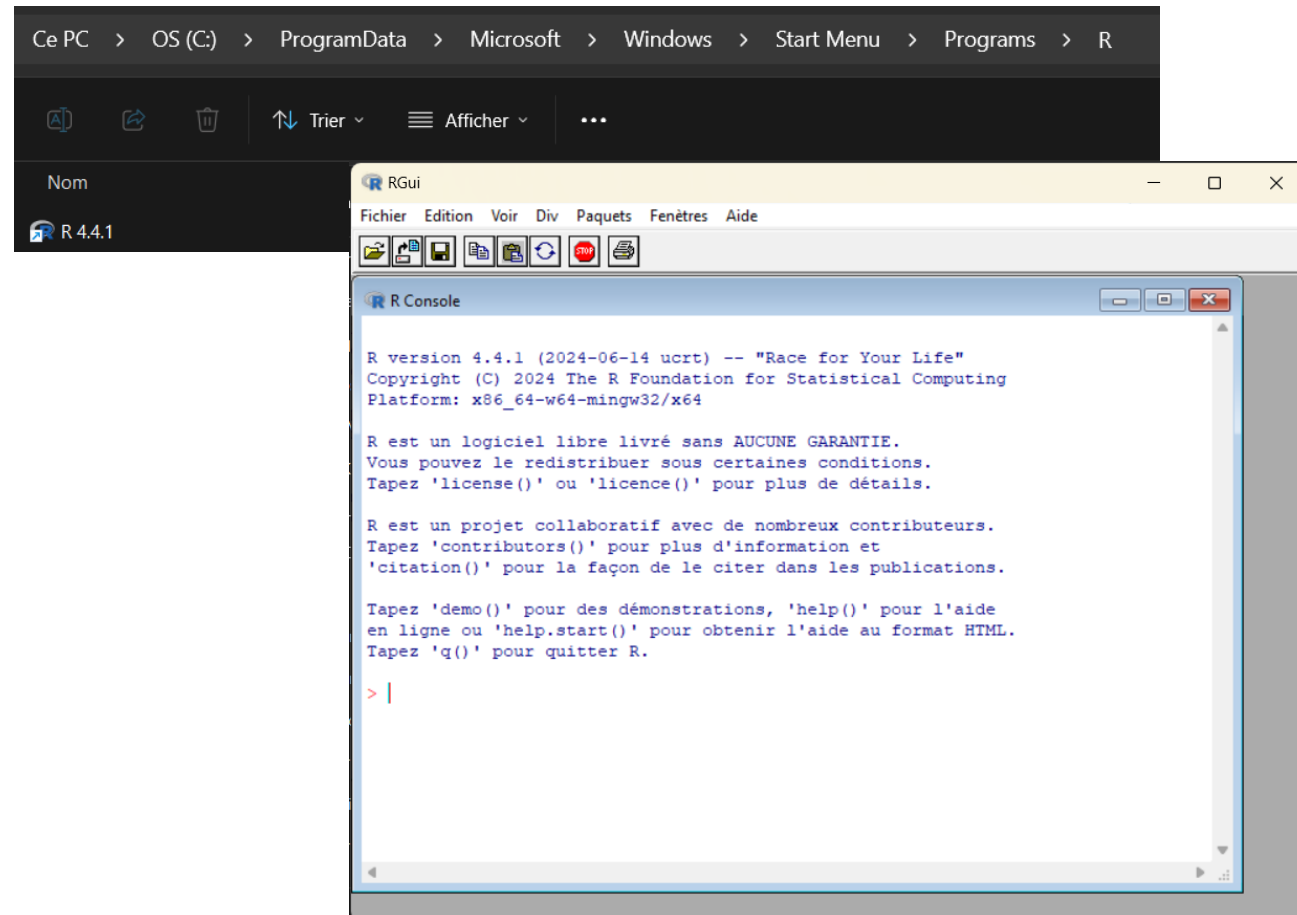
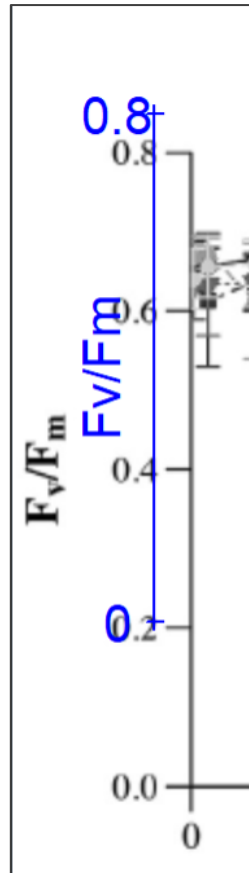
What is the value of y1 ?
0

What is the value of y2 ?
0.8

Re-calibrate? (y/n)
y
```

Tools for extracting data from figures: metaDigitise

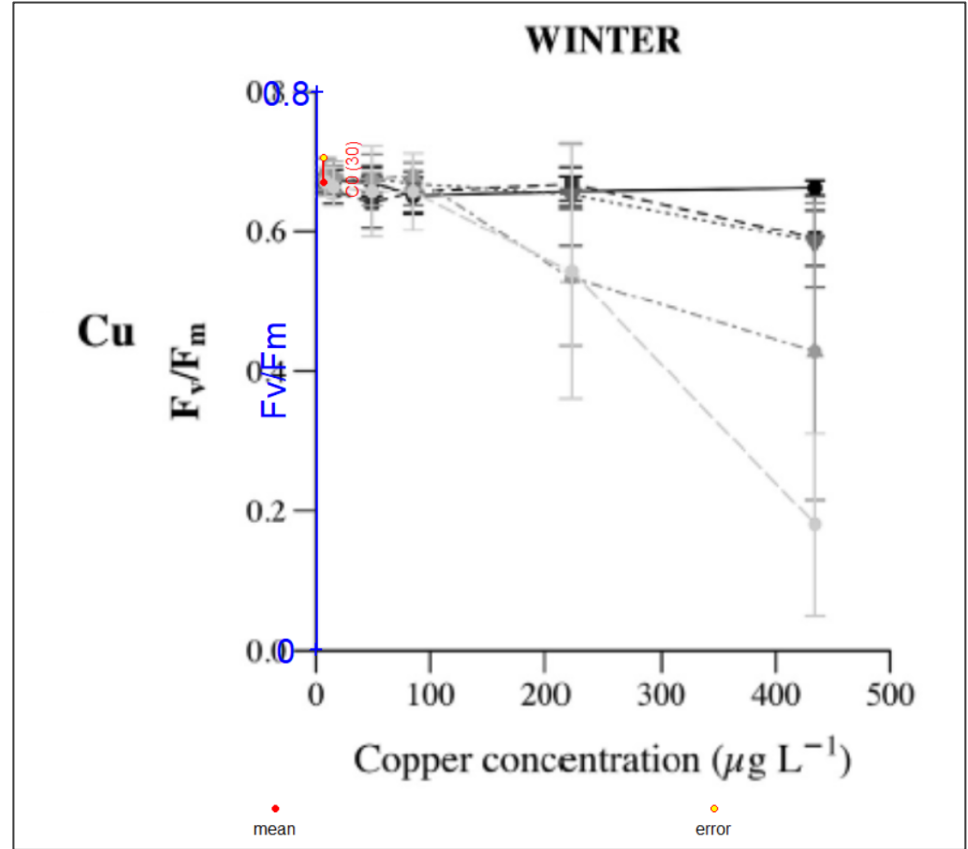
! If display problem -> exit Rstudio -> use Rgui



Tools for extracting data from figures: metaDigitise

```

Do you know sample sizes? (y/n)
y
If there are multiple groups, enter unique group identifiers (otherwise press enter)
Group identifier:
C0
Group sample size:
30
Click on Error Bar, followed by the Mean
Add group, Edit Group, Delete group or Finish plot? (a/e/d/f)
    
```



Tools for extracting data from figures: metaDigitise

Do you know sample sizes? (y/n)

y

If there are multiple groups, enter unique group identifiers (otherwise press enter)

Group identifier:

C0

Group sample size:

30

Click on Error Bar, followed by the Mean

Add group, Edit Group, Delete group or Finish plot? (a/e/d/f)

Add group, Edit Group, Delete group or Finish plot? (a/e/d/f)

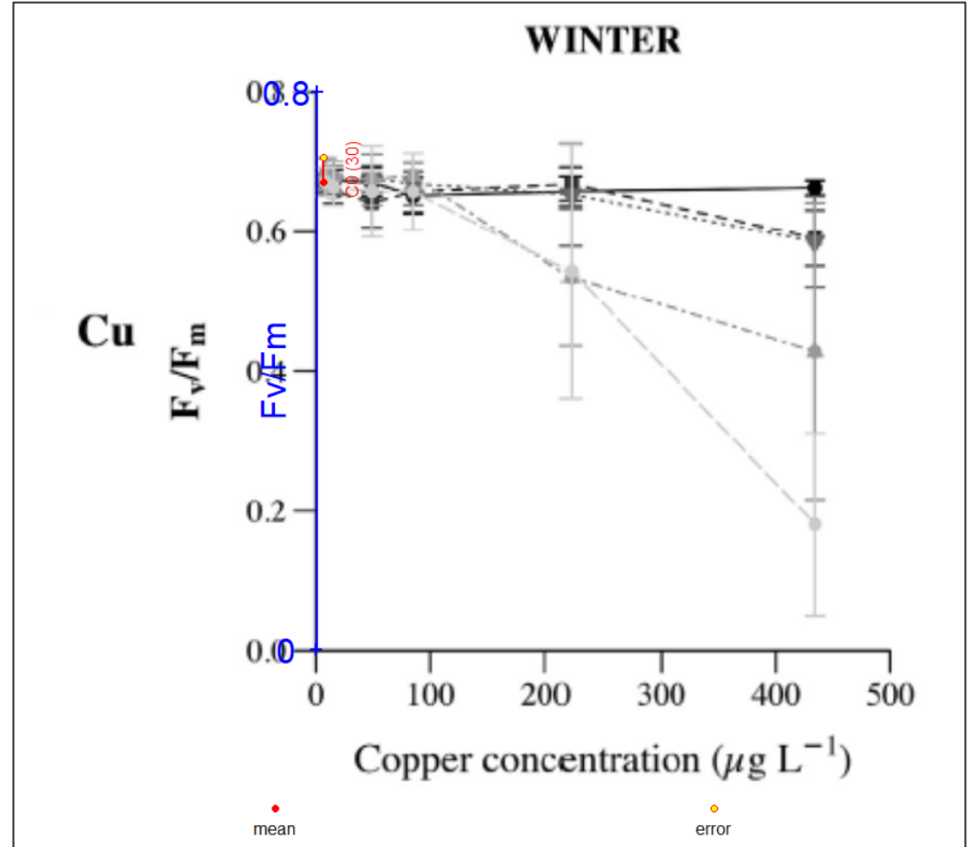
f

Type of error (se, CI95, sd):

sd

Do you want continue: 1 plots out of 2 plots remaining (y/n)

y



Tools for extracting data from figures: metaDigitise

Do you know sample sizes? (y/n)

y

If there are multiple groups, enter unique group identifiers (otherwise press enter)

Group identifier:

C0

Group sample size:

30

Click on Error Bar, followed by the Mean

Add group, Edit Group, Delete group or Finish plot? (a/e/d/f)

Add group, Edit Group, Delete group or Finish plot? (a/e/d/f)

f

Type of error (se, CI95, sd):

sd

Do you want continue: 1 plots out of 2 plots remaining (y/n)

y

Add group, Edit Group, Delete group or Finish plot? (a/e/d/f)

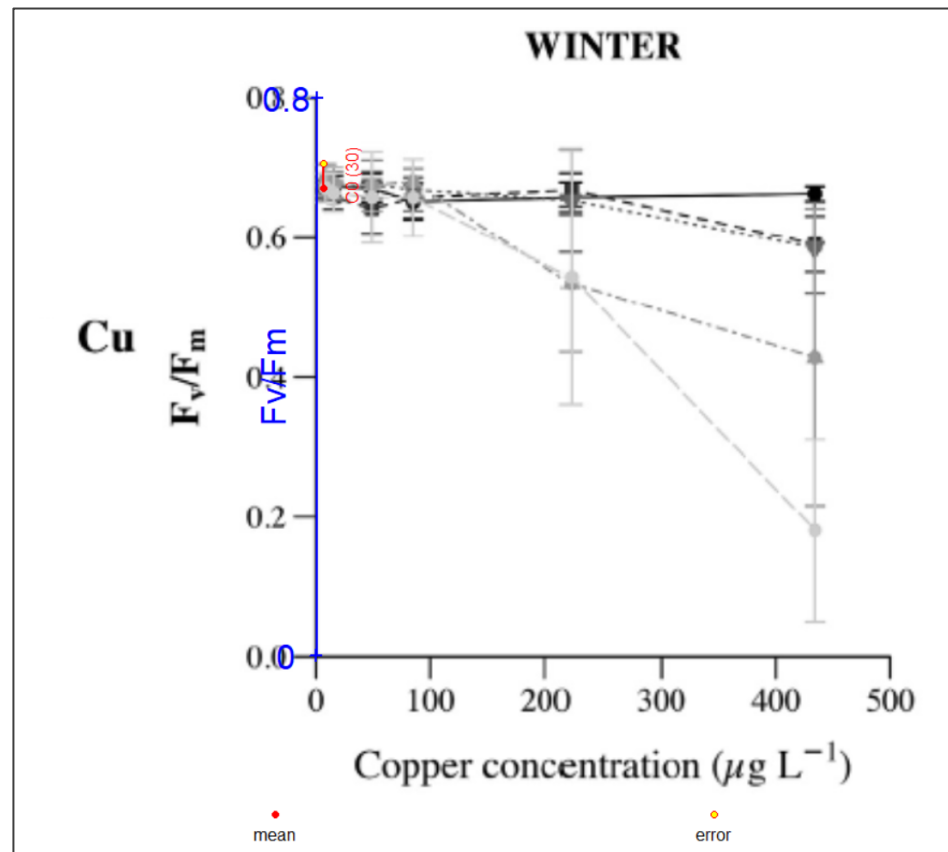
f

Type of error (se, CI95, sd):

sd

Congratulations! Looks like you have finished digitising all figures in this directory.

> |



Question: estimate the effects of chemicals on the photosynthetic performance (*maximum quantum yield, Fv/Fm*) of tropical reef-building corals

A **study** = combination of a taxon × an exposure × an outcome

A **case study** = one tested concentration-duration

Effect size = mean standardized difference

$$d = \frac{\bar{Y}_1 - \bar{Y}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}}} J,$$

where $J = 1 - \frac{3}{4(n_1 + n_2 - 2) - 1}$

If monitoring over time, extraction of the longest duration of exposure

Files:

data_TD.xlsx (sheet 5)

Hedouin2016_Improving.pdf

Hedouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png, Hedouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png (folder « figs »)

Exercise: extract data using metaDigitise (15-20 min)

Prepare the figures with the data to be extracted (screenshot -> .png), put them in a “figs” folder in the “TD” working directory

In R: Install & load metaDigitise package `library(metaDigitise)`

Set working directory `setwd("~/TD/TD_extraction")`

`dat <- metaDigitise(dir = "./figs")`

`write.csv2(dat, "extracted_data_TD_metadigitise.csv", quote=F, row.names=F)`

Extract data into data_TD.xlsx (sheet 5)



Hédouin et al. 2016

Table 1

Nominal versus measured concentrations (mean \pm standard deviation, $n = 3$) of Cu and Pb ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) used in the toxicity experiments for the adult *Pocillopora damicornis* corals.

Condition	Concentration ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)		
	Nominal	Measured – summer	Measured-Winter
Cu			
Control – C ₀	0	1.5 \pm 0.6	8.1 \pm 0.6
Concentration 1 – C ₁	10	12.6 \pm 2.8	15.0 \pm 1.3
Concentration 2 – C ₂	50	49.2 \pm 11.3	48.9 \pm 5.0
Concentration 3 – C ₃	100	90.0 \pm 15.3	85.2 \pm 16.2
Concentration 4 – C ₄	250	206 \pm 33.6	222 \pm 29.4
Concentration 5 – C ₅	500	378 \pm 49.8	434 \pm 72.6
Pb			
Control- C ₀	0	0.5 \pm 0.7	1.9 \pm 3.0
Concentration 1 – C ₁	80	75.6 \pm 4.2	67.9 \pm 7.8
Concentration 2 – C ₂	160	151 \pm 8.2	133 \pm 23.1
Concentration 3 – C ₃	320	308 \pm 10.0	316 \pm 30.6
Concentration 4 – C ₄	640	604 \pm 37.1	605 \pm 34.3
Concentration 5 – C ₅	1280	1200 \pm 92.2	1138 \pm 57.4

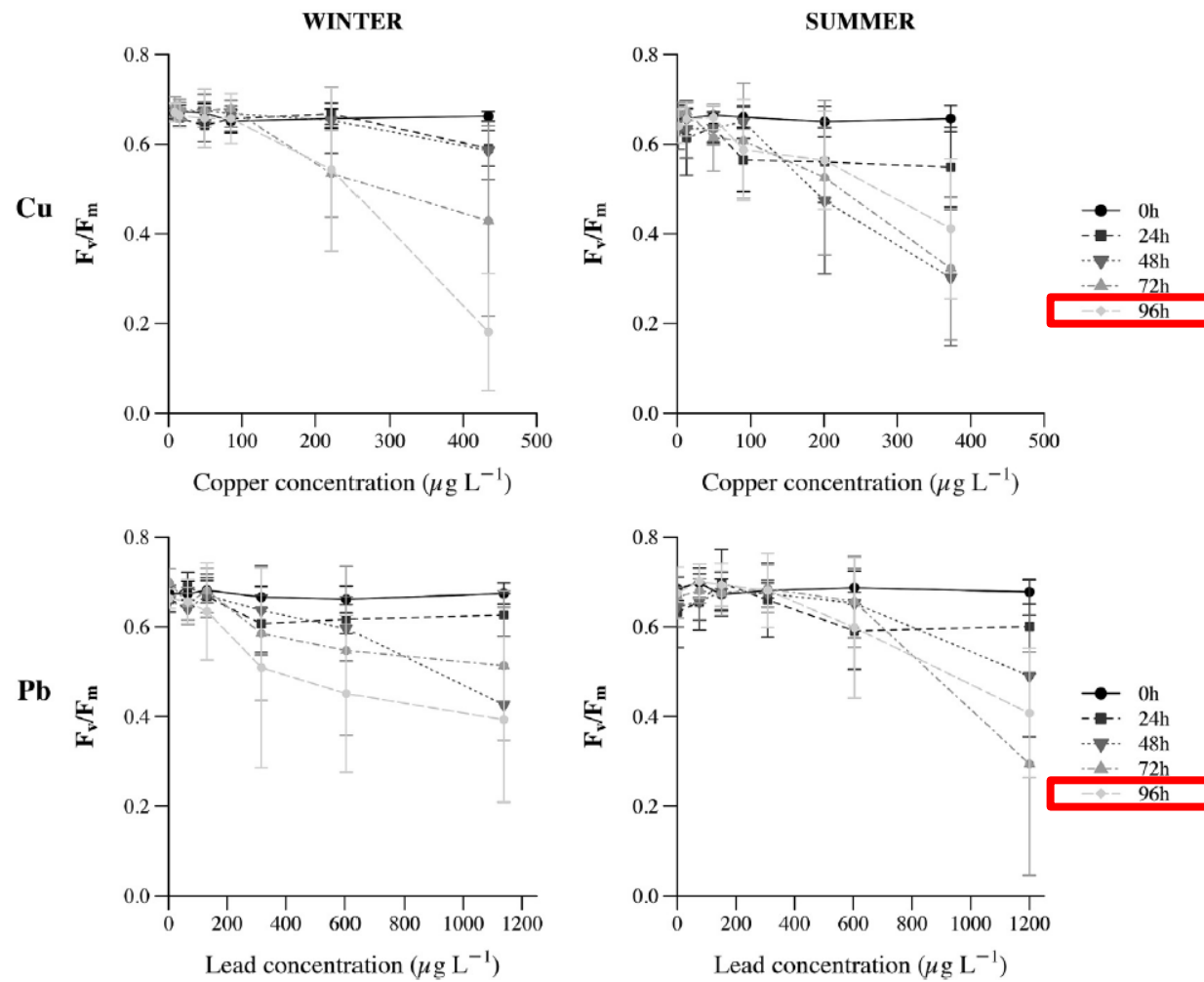


Fig. 8. Dark-adapted quantum yield (F_v/F_m , mean \pm standard deviation, $n = 30$ nubbins per condition, -pooled data-) of *Pocillopora damicornis* corals exposed for 96 h to a range of dissolved Cu and Pb concentration in the summer and winter seasons.

Hédouin et al. 2016

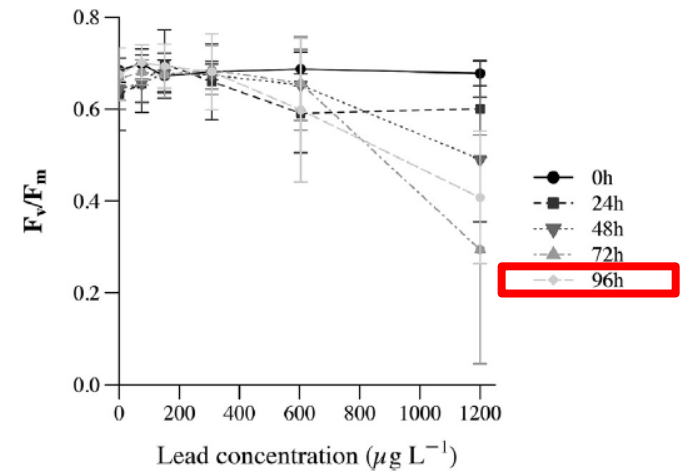
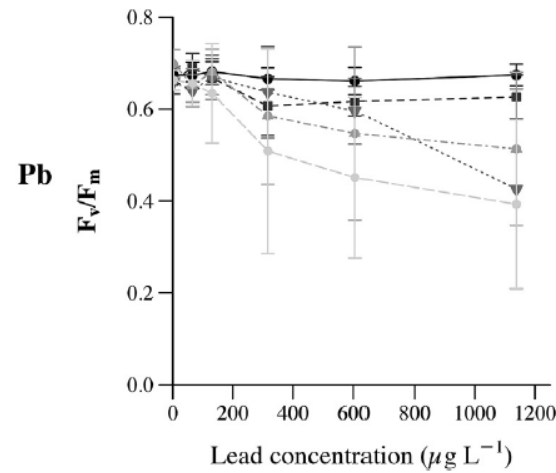
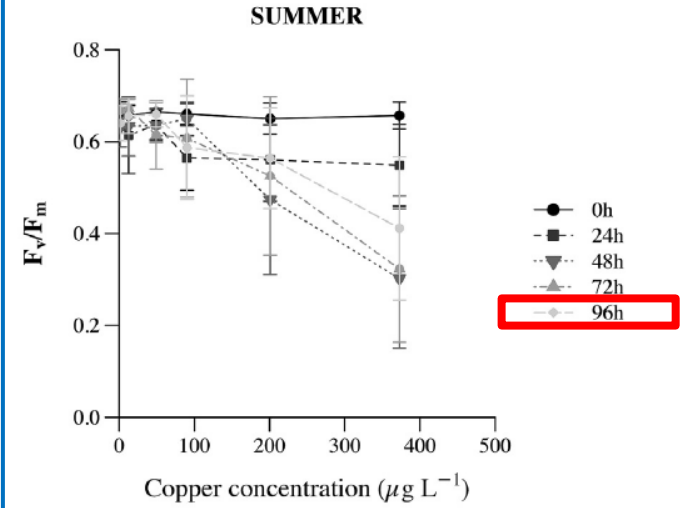
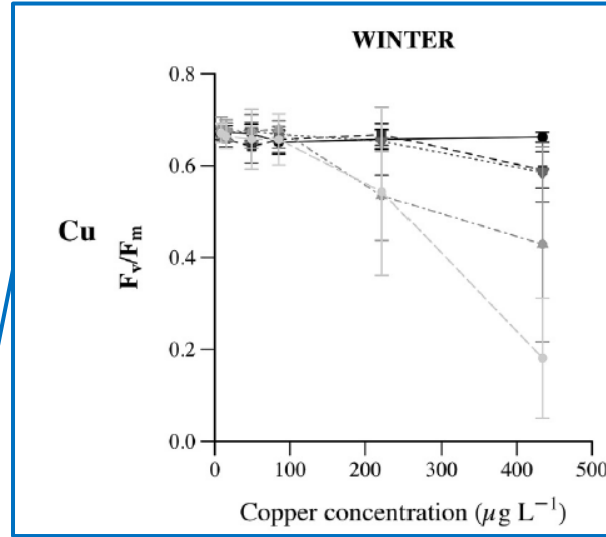
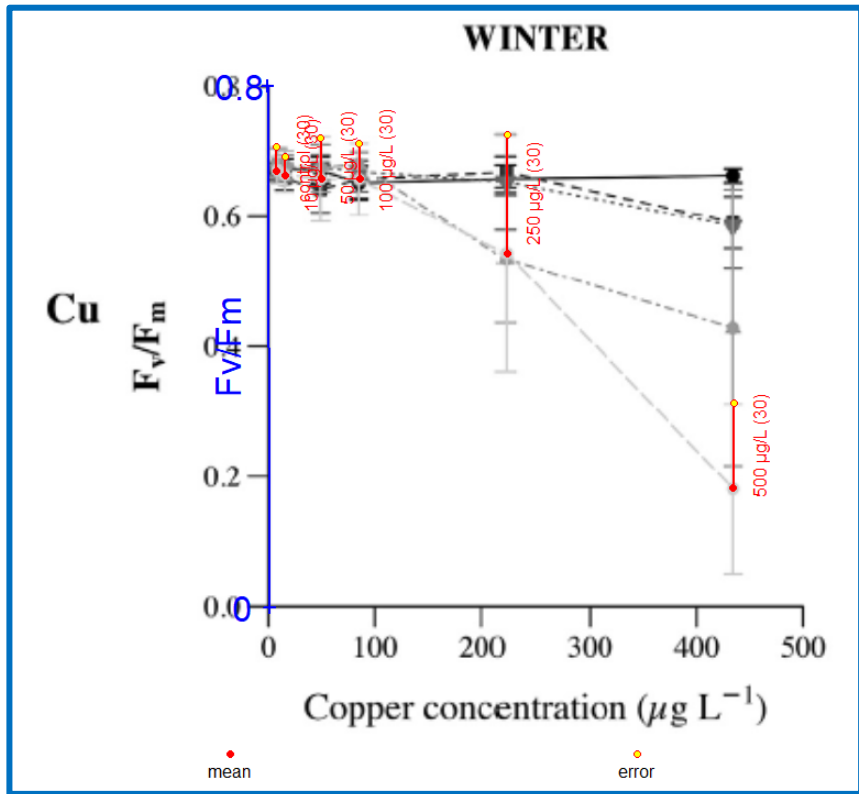


Fig. 8. Dark-adapted quantum yield (F_v/F_m , mean \pm standard deviation, $n = 30$ nubbins per condition, -pooled data-) of *Pocillopora damicornis* corals exposed for 96 h to a range of dissolved Cu and Pb concentration in the summer and winter seasons.

Hédouin et al. 2016

```
> dat
```

	filename	variable	group_id	mean	sd	n	r	se	error_type	plot_type
1	Hédouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png	Fv/Fm	C0	0.6396917	0.04007707	30	NA	0.007317039	sd	mean_error
2	Hédouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png	Fv/Fm	C1	0.6551060	0.03699422	30	NA	0.006754190	sd	mean_error
3	Hédouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png	Fv/Fm	C2	0.6612717	0.02928709	30	NA	0.005347067	sd	mean_error
4	Hédouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png	Fv/Fm	C3	0.5872832	0.11560694	30	NA	0.021106842	sd	mean_error
5	Hédouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png	Fv/Fm	C4	0.5657033	0.10944123	30	NA	0.019981144	sd	mean_error
6	Hédouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png	Fv/Fm	C5	0.4100193	0.15722543	30	NA	0.028705306	sd	mean_error
7	Hédouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png	Fv/Fm	C0	0.6707692	0.03538462	30	NA	0.006460317	sd	mean_error
8	Hédouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png	Fv/Fm	C1	0.6646154	0.02769231	30	NA	0.005055901	sd	mean_error
9	Hédouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png	Fv/Fm	C2	0.6584615	0.06307692	30	NA	0.011516218	sd	mean_error
10	Hédouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png	Fv/Fm	C3	0.6553846	0.05538462	30	NA	0.010111801	sd	mean_error
11	Hédouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png	Fv/Fm	C4	0.5400000	0.18615385	30	NA	0.033986887	sd	mean_error
12	Hédouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png	Fv/Fm	C5	0.1769231	0.13230769	30	NA	0.024155969	sd	mean_error

```
> |
```

```
> dat
      filename variable group id      mean      sd n r      se error type plot type
1 Hedouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png Fv/Fm C0 0.6396917 0.04007707 30 NA 0.007317039 sd mean_error
2 Hedouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png Fv/Fm C1 0.6551060 0.03699422 30 NA 0.006754190 sd mean_error
3 Hedouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png Fv/Fm C2 0.6612717 0.02928709 30 NA 0.005347067 sd mean_error
4 Hedouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png Fv/Fm C3 0.5872832 0.11560694 30 NA 0.021106842 sd mean_error
5 Hedouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png Fv/Fm C4 0.5657033 0.10944123 30 NA 0.019981144 sd mean_error
6 Hedouin2016_Fig8_SummerCu.png Fv/Fm C5 0.4100193 0.15722543 30 NA 0.028705306 sd mean_error
7 Hedouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png Fv/Fm C0 0.6707692 0.03538462 30 NA 0.006460317 sd mean_error
8 Hedouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png Fv/Fm C1 0.6646154 0.02769231 30 NA 0.005055901 sd mean_error
9 Hedouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png Fv/Fm C2 0.6584615 0.06307692 30 NA 0.011516218 sd mean_error
10 Hedouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png Fv/Fm C3 0.6553846 0.05538462 30 NA 0.010111801 sd mean_error
11 Hedouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png Fv/Fm C4 0.5400000 0.18615385 30 NA 0.033986887 sd mean_error
12 Hedouin2018_Fig8_WinterCu.png Fv/Fm C5 0.1769231 0.13230769 30 NA 0.024155969 sd mean_error
```

L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA
Concentration_nom	Concentration_eff	Duration	Measured_outcome	ID_experiment	ID_case	N_c	Mean_c	Type_variatic	Variation_c	N_t	Mean_t	Type_variatic	Variation_t	Method_extr	Source
10 µg/L	12.6 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Summer_Exp	1	30	0,63969171	sd	0,04007707	30	0,65510597	sd	0,03699422	Figure	Figure 8
50 µg/L	49.2 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Summer_Exp	2	30	0,63969171	sd	0,04007707	30	0,66127168	sd	0,02928709	Figure	Figure 8
100 µg/L	90 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Summer_Exp	3	30	0,63969171	sd	0,04007707	30	0,58728324	sd	0,11560694	Figure	Figure 8
250 µg/L	206 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Summer_Exp	4	30	0,63969171	sd	0,04007707	30	0,56570328	sd	0,10944123	Figure	Figure 8
500 µg/L	378 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Summer_Exp	5	30	0,63969171	sd	0,04007707	30	0,41001927	sd	0,15722543	Figure	Figure 8
10 µg/L	15 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Winter_Exp	6	30	0,67076923	sd	0,03538462	30	0,66461538	sd	0,02769231	Figure	Figure 8
50 µg/L	48.9 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Winter_Exp	7	30	0,67076923	sd	0,03538462	30	0,65846154	sd	0,06307692	Figure	Figure 8
100 µg/L	85.2 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Winter_Exp	8	30	0,67076923	sd	0,03538462	30	0,65538462	sd	0,05538462	Figure	Figure 8
250 µg/L	222 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Winter_Exp	9	30	0,67076923	sd	0,03538462	30	0,54	sd	0,18615385	Figure	Figure 8
500 µg/L	434 µg/L	96h	Fv/Fm (Maximum dark-	Winter_Exp	10	30	0,67076923	sd	0,03538462	30	0,17692308	sd	0,13230769	Figure	Figure 8