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### Appendix 1

Species richness for four different spatial scales and island parameter for the 60 islands studied.

iso<sub>Gam</sub>: distance to Gam island; iso<sub>buffer</sub>: surrounding landmass in 1000 m radius. SE: standard error of estimated species richness.

Island	Island coordinates	Y <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>2</sub> (±SE)	α <sub>1</sub>	α <sub>2</sub>	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	iso <sub>Gam</sub> (m)	iso <sub>buffer</sub> (ha)	Shape index	Soil depth mean (cm)
<b>GB1</b>	130°34'52.115"E 0°31'14.524"S	18	24.8 (±2.7)	7.25	2.25	4774.04	59.30	146.90	0.70	11.40
<b>GB2</b>	130°34'30.544"E 0°31'2.808"S	1	2 (±0)	1.00	1.00	7.29	56.65	71.06	0.60	0.00
<b>GB3</b>	130°34'6.453"E 0°31'3.816"S	17	26.6 (±3.5)	7.25	2.35	2329.91	172.07	45.80	0.61	3.72
<b>GB4</b>	130°34'6.641"E 0°31'4.363"S	1	2 (±0)	1.00	1.00	8.06	191.69	44.91	0.64	0.00
<b>GB5</b>	130°34'10.814"E 0°31'2.308"S	2	3 (±0)	2.00	2.00	20.27	136.06	47.01	0.59	0.00
<b>GB6</b>	130°34'7.001"E 0°30'55.021"S	8	12.6 (±1.8)	4.67	2.09	316.83	381.77	33.60	0.76	3.94
<b>GB7</b>	130°34'10.684"E 0°30'54.074"S	13	18.7 (±2.5)	6.50	1.95	1575.25	344.67	36.22	0.60	9.77
<b>GB8</b>	130°34'20.533"E 0°30'59.87"S	14	18.8 (±1.9)	6.75	2.15	1263.62	106.69	53.70	0.78	12.74
<b>GB9</b>	130°34'12.378"E 0°30'52.021"S	19	27.6 (±3)	9.25	2.85	1716.25	400.15	33.95	0.58	0.73
<b>GB10</b>	130°34'19.367"E 0°31'0.326"S	5	8.3 (±1.3)	5.00	1.40	121.47	115.03	52.69	0.67	0.00
<b>GB11</b>	130°34'14.995"E 0°31'0.318"S	9	11.9 (±1.3)	5.33	2.60	817.06	148.18	49.87	0.67	8.16
<b>GB12</b>	130°33'47.023"E 0°30'41.63"S	14	22.6 (±3)	6.75	1.90	1649.94	1091.20	21.38	0.60	2.63
<b>GB13</b>	130°33'39.392"E 0°30'46.509"S	10	13.7 (±1.6)	7.50	2.40	601.88	1198.45	20.51	0.58	7.66
<b>GB14</b>	130°35'16.783"E 0°31'0.992"S	12	17.5 (±2)	7.50	2.70	535.20	270.27	78.52	0.62	19.66
<b>GB15</b>	130°35'18.591"E 0°31'1.654"S	9	14	9.00	3.40	380.60	226.00	87.76	0.63	22.28

			(±3.6)							
<b>GB16</b>	130°35'38.096"E 0°30'45.256"S	6	10 (±1.9)	6.00	2.50	137.07	63.37	150.20	0.59	15.50
<b>GB17</b>	130°35'37.496"E 0°30'33.986"S	3	5 (±0.7)	3.00	2.00	18.43	5.40	133.54	0.67	0.00
<b>GB18</b>	130°35'35.864"E 0°30'22.88"S	8	11.4 (±1.4)	8.00	2.80	432.77	15.69	106.46	0.59	11.44
<b>GB19</b>	130°35'38.468"E 0°30'20.568"S	1	2 (±0)	1.00	1.00	15.10	8.52	111.52	0.64	0.00
<b>GB20</b>	130°35'14.153"E 0°30'55.705"S	13	18.7 (±2.1)	7.67	3.00	864.00	414.66	54.45	0.61	15.37
<b>GB21</b>	130°34'28.442"E 0°31'2.992"S	2	3 (±0)	2.00	2.00	10.51	1.63	68.47	0.60	0.00
<b>GB22</b>	130°34'51.27"E 0°31'17.771"S	14	19.7 (±2.1)	6.00	2.05	1571.48	39.82	156.79	0.67	8.59
<b>GB23</b>	130°34'59.55"E 0°31'11.114"S	14	22.6 (±3)	6.00	2.35	1375.63	62.99	120.73	0.66	6.08
<b>GB24</b>	130°35'4.149"E 0°31'2.038"S	17	24.7 (±2.5)	8.50	2.95	1862.75	257.00	76.22	0.68	11.19
<b>GB25</b>	130°35'15.603"E 0°30'46.099"S	8	13 (±2.6)	8.00	3.33	69.14	665.68	38.40	0.81	4.87
<b>GB26</b>	130°34'59.574"E 0°31'8.023"S	17	23.8 (±2.4)	7.00	2.44	3865.84	82.44	109.18	0.69	17.14
<b>GB27</b>	130°35'11.779"E 0°30'56.904"S	22	29.8 (±2.6)	10.50	3.50	11806.28	314.32	64.45	0.81	7.19
<b>GB28</b>	130°35'15.345"E 0°30'58.95"S	24	31.7 (±2.9)	8.40	2.72	4429.05	301.33	74.54	0.64	17.24
<b>GB29</b>	130°35'17.546"E 0°30'54.676"S	27	38.6 (±3.5)	10.00	3.20	5526.65	351.65	74.66	0.70	13.19
<b>GB30</b>	130°34'9.677"E 0°31'3.813"S	22	30.7 (±3.1)	8.67	3.00	8520.55	63.21	51.24	0.71	8.19
<b>GB31</b>	130°35'16.863"E 0°30'50.919"S	19	23.9 (±2.4)	9.00	3.27	7181.16	510.54	56.03	0.90	9.99
<b>GB32</b>	130°34'6.863"E 0°30'54.819"S	1	2 (±0)	1.00	1.00	13.63	397.35	32.24	0.78	0.00
<b>GB33</b>	130°34'6.66"E 0°30'55.563"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	12.78	382.15	33.40	0.60	0.00
<b>GB34</b>	130°34'6.787"E 0°30'55.537"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	12.01	381.02	33.51	0.59	0.00
<b>GB35</b>	130°34'7.41"E 0°30'54.959"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	29.39	386.14	32.97	0.62	0.00
<b>GB36</b>	130°33'34.803"E 0°30'47.294"S	1	2 (±0)	1.00	0.50	16.46	1246.85	20.40	0.72	0.00
<b>GB37</b>	130°33'28.821"E 0°30'47.557"S	2	3 (±0)	2.00	2.00	15.94	1123.65	21.64	0.61	0.00
<b>GB38</b>	130°34'7.208"E 0°31'6.28"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	3.64	148.07	47.92	0.61	0.00
<b>GB39</b>	130°34'7.093"E	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	6.22	149.39	47.80	0.59	0.00

	0°31'6.345"S									
<b>GB40</b>	130°34'6.966"E 0°31'6.537"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	10.52	151.70	47.49	0.64	0.00
<b>GB41</b>	130°34'7.252"E 0°31'4.431"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	6.57	173.71	45.72	0.60	0.00
<b>GB42</b>	130°34'7.829"E 0°31'4.02"S	1	2 (±0)	1.00	1.00	7.00	169.31	46.05	0.61	0.00
<b>GB43</b>	130°34'10.58"E 0°31'6.067"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	4.63	58.87	50.82	0.60	0.00
<b>GB44</b>	130°33'36.627"E 0°30'46.95"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	22.60	1265.85	20.44	0.71	0.00
<b>GB45</b>	130°35'15.361"E 0°30'45.971"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	5.66	674.75	37.33	0.64	0.00
<b>GB46</b>	130°34'20.991"E 0°31'0.022"S	5	8 (±2)	5.00	2.00	77.94	137.26	53.35	0.65	0.00
<b>GB47</b>	130°34'20.828"E 0°31'0.302"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	8.24	137.89	53.38	0.62	0.00
<b>GB48</b>	130°34'28.425"E 0°31'2.795"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	4.34	7.30	67.70	0.60	0.00
<b>GB49</b>	130°34'28.094"E 0°31'2.949"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	7.93	2.00	67.90	0.67	0.00
<b>GB50</b>	130°34'45.708"E 0°31'7.12"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	11.01	171.78	102.53	0.63	0.00
<b>GB51</b>	130°34'45.413"E 0°31'9.299"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	2.81	123.18	113.99	0.59	0.00
<b>GB52</b>	130°34'51.319"E 0°31'19.832"S	2	3 (±0)	2.00	2.00	5.75	2.41	160.87	0.60	0.00
<b>GB53</b>	130°34'51.217"E 0°31'19.918"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	3.58	1.43	161.70	0.58	0.00
<b>GB54</b>	130°34'51.404"E 0°31'19.849"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	3.53	0.65	161.44	0.58	0.00
<b>GB55</b>	130°35'4.526"E 0°31'3.507"S	6	10 (±2.9)	6.00	3.00	25.49	257.43	74.51	0.65	0.00
<b>GB56</b>	130°35'3.783"E 0°31'3.081"S	1	2 (±0)	1.00	1.00	6.34	286.96	72.30	0.61	0.00
<b>GB57</b>	130°35'2.06"E 0°30'59.367"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	14.81	362.61	55.63	0.64	0.00
<b>GB58</b>	130°35'2.336"E 0°30'59.581"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	16.77	360.80	56.48	0.65	0.00
<b>GB59</b>	130°34'59.79"E 0°30'58.346"S	14	17.9 (±1.7)	7.00	2.20	2620.30	328.73	54.83	0.79	7.23
<b>GB60</b>	130°34'11.493"E 0°31'2.615"S	0	0 (±0)	0.00	0.00	3.11	116.35	47.89	0.62	0.00

## Appendix 2

Eleven different species-area relationships used for comparison of best model at four different spatial scales according to Guilhaumon et al. (2010).  $S$  = species richness;  $A$  = island area;  $c$ ,  $z$ ,  $d$ , and  $f$  = fitted parameter,  $T$  = breakpoint. Area was log-transformed for the two breakpoint models and the linear model prior to model calculation.

Model	Formula	Space and shape	Source
Power	$S = c \times A^z$	Arithmetic convex	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Exponential	$S = c + z \times \log A$	Arithmetic convex	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Negative exponential	$S = d / (1 - \exp(-z \times A))$	Arithmetic convex	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Monod	$S = d / (1 + c \times A^{-1})$	Arithmetic convex	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Rational function	$S = (c + z \times A) / (1 + d \times A)$	Arithmetic convex	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Logistic	$S = d / (1 + \exp(-z \times A + f))$	Arithmetic sigmoid	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Lomolino	$S = \frac{d}{1} + (z \log(\frac{f}{A}))$	Arithmetic sigmoid	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Cumulative Weibull	$S = d(1 - \exp(-z \times A^f))$	Arithmetic sigmoid	Guilhaumon et al. 2010
Left-horizontal function	$S = c + z \times ((A - T) \times (A \geq T))$	Semi-log breakpoint	Lomolino and Weiser 2001
Continuous two-slope	$S = c + (A \leq T) \times z_1 \times A + (A > T) * [z_1 \log T + z_2(A - T)]$	Semi-log breakpoint	Dengler 2010
Single linear regression model	$S = c + z \times A$	Semi-log linear	Dengler 2010

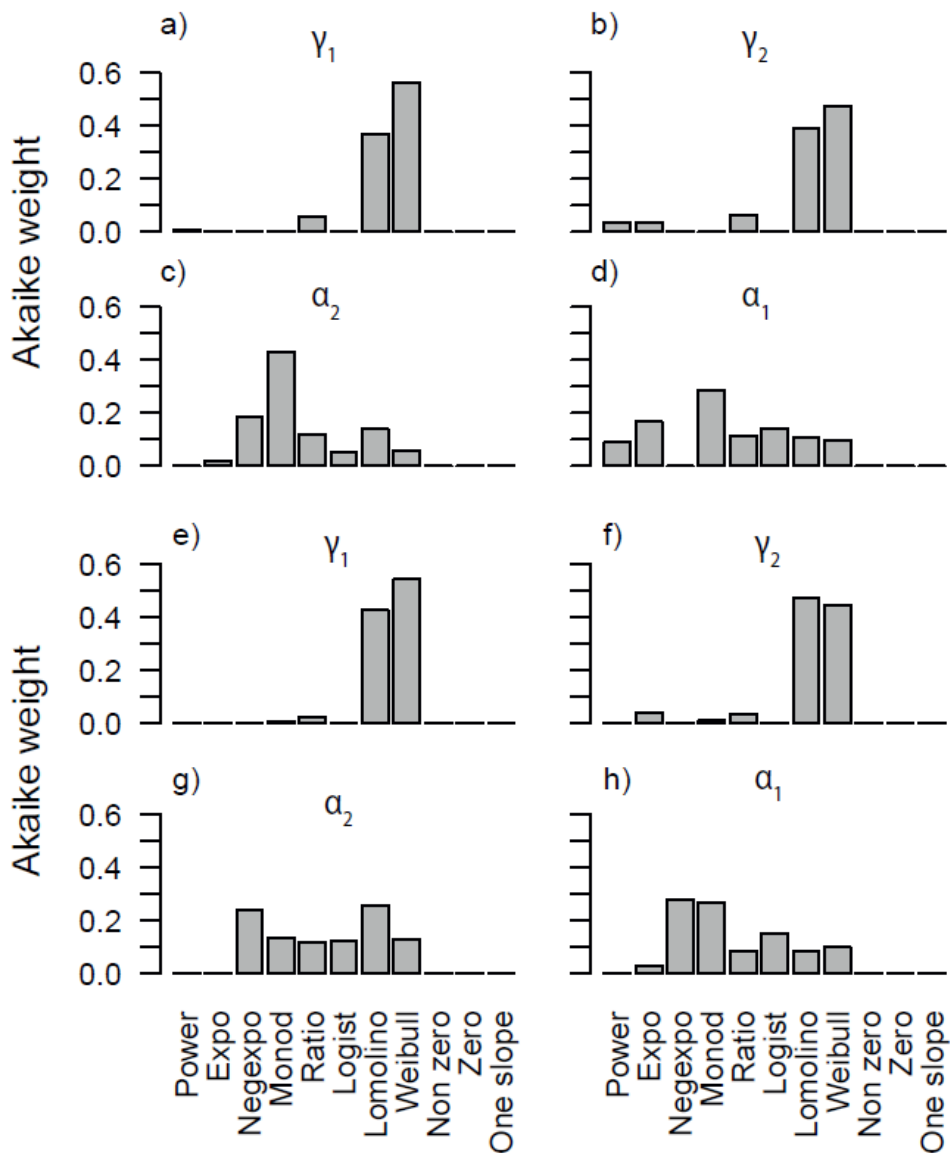
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## Appendix 3

Akaike weights of 11 different models explaining species richness on islands at four different spatial scales when all empty islands are excluded from the dataset (a–d) and when only empty islands are included that are larger than the smallest inhabited island (e–h). Spatial scale is divided into  $\alpha_1$  (d and h): size of a single subtransect,  $\alpha_2$  (c and g): size of a single transect,  $\gamma_1$  (a and e): observed species richness on a given island, and  $\gamma_2$  (b and f): estimated species richness (Jackknife 1) on a given island. Non zero model: continuous two-slope function, Zero: left-horizontal function, One slope: single linear regression model (see Appendix 2 for model formulas).



## Appendix 4

Pearson correlation matrix of five explanatory variables used for model selection and relative variable importance. Island area was log-transformed. SI: shape index; iso<sub>Gam</sub>: distance to Gam island; iso<sub>buffer</sub>: surrounding landmass in 1000 m radius; soil mean: mean soil depth recorded on each island.

	Area [log10]	ISO <sub>buffer</sub>	ISO <sub>Gam</sub>	SI
ISO <sub>buffer</sub>	0.01			
ISO <sub>Gam</sub>	0.10	-0.59		
SI	0.46	-0.14	0.19	
Soil mean	0.75	0.22	-0.05	0.24

## Appendix 5

Spatial autocorrelation (Moran's I) of six variables used for model selection and relative variable importance. All variables, except the buffer surrounding landmass in 1000 m radius, were not spatially autocorrelated. Moran's I was calculated using the function *moran.test* in the R-package *spdep* (Bivand, R. and Piras, G. 2015. Comparing implementations of estimation methods for spatial econometrics. – J. Stat. Softw, 63). Island area was log-transformed. SI: shape index; iso<sub>Gam</sub>: distance to Gam island; iso<sub>buffer</sub>: surrounding landmass in 1000 m radius; soil depth: mean soil depth recorded on each island.

Variable	Moran's I values			
	Observed	Expected	Standard deviation	pvalue
Species richness	0.2	-0.02	1.38	0.08
Area	0.19	-0.02	1.33	0.09
ISO <sub>buffer</sub>	0.57	-0.02	3.75	<0.01
ISO <sub>Gam</sub>	0.17	-0.02	1.22	0.11
SI	-0.15	-0.02	-0.89	0.81
Soil depth	-0.01	-0.02	0.35	0.49

## Appendix 6

Intercept and slope of linear quantile regression (lower 0.05 and upper 0.95 quantile) and regular single slope linear regression of species richness and island area ( $\log_{10}$  transformed). p-value indicates significance level between the coefficients of the slopes of the lower and upper quantile for each spatial scale. Lower adjusted  $R^2$  indicated greater difference between the slopes. Spatial scale is divided into  $\alpha_1$ : size of a single subtransect,  $\alpha_2$ : size of a single transect,  $\gamma_1$ : observed species richness on a given island, and  $\gamma_2$ : estimated species richness (Jackknife 1) on a given island.

Spatial scale	Model	Intercept	Slope	p-value	Adjusted $R^2$
<b><math>\gamma_1</math></b>	Quantile 0.05	-8.61	7.03	0.0143	0.91
	Quantile 0.95	-4.44	9.92		
	Regular	-7.41	8.99		
<b><math>\gamma_2</math></b>	Quantile 0.05	-6.53	5.33	0.0104	0.91
	Quantile 0.95	-3.75	7.61		
	Regular	-5.56	6.45		
<b><math>\alpha_2</math></b>	Quantile 0.05	-0.54	0.4	0.0015	0.71
	Quantile 0.95	1.09	1.19		
	Regular	0.08	0.76		
<b><math>\alpha_1</math></b>	Quantile 0.05	-2.00	1.63	0.0045	0.16
	Quantile 0.95	-0.7	3.55		
	Regular	-1.62	2.75		

## Appendix 7

Model support of 11 different species-area relationship models at four spatial scales. Spatial scale is divided into  $\alpha_1$ : size of a single subtransect,  $\alpha_2$ : size of a single transect,  $\gamma_1$ : observed species richness on a given island, and  $\gamma_2$ : estimated species richness (Jackknife 1) on a given island. For model formulas and description see Appendix 2.

Spatial scale	Model	AICc	AICc weights
<b><math>\gamma_2</math></b>	Power	160.82	0.00
	Expo	146.74	0.01
	Negexpo	156.76	0.00
	Monod	145.30	0.02
	Ratio	144.60	0.02
	Logist	171.94	0.00
	Lomolino	138.35	0.48
	Weibull	138.40	0.47
	Non zero	310.61	0.00
	Zero	308.60	0.00
	One slope	317.01	0.00
<b><math>\gamma_1</math></b>	Power	104.27	0.00
	Expo	99.84	0.00
	Negexpo	99.20	0.00
	Monod	85.87	0.01
	Ratio	84.64	0.01
	Logist	123.81	0.00
	Lomolino	77.00	0.46
	Weibull	76.71	0.53
	Non zero	251.13	0.00
	Zero	252.48	0.00
	One slope	270.11	0.00
<b><math>\alpha_2</math></b>	Power	70.85	0.00
	Expo	40.65	0.00
	Negexpo	30.77	0.19
	Monod	32.38	0.08
	Ratio	31.41	0.14
	Logist	32.13	0.10
	Lomolino	29.53	0.35
	Weibull	31.29	0.15
	Non zero	207.31	0.00
	Zero	212.93	0.00
	One slope	210.92	0.00
<b><math>\alpha_1</math></b>	Power	-24.81	0.00
	Expo	-36.20	0.01
	Negexpo	-42.91	0.34
	Monod	-42.30	0.25
	Ratio	-40.60	0.11
	Logist	-40.03	0.08
	Lomolino	-40.74	0.11
	Weibull	-40.62	0.11
	Non zero	131.44	0.00
	Zero	136.38	0.00
	One slope	134.08	0.00



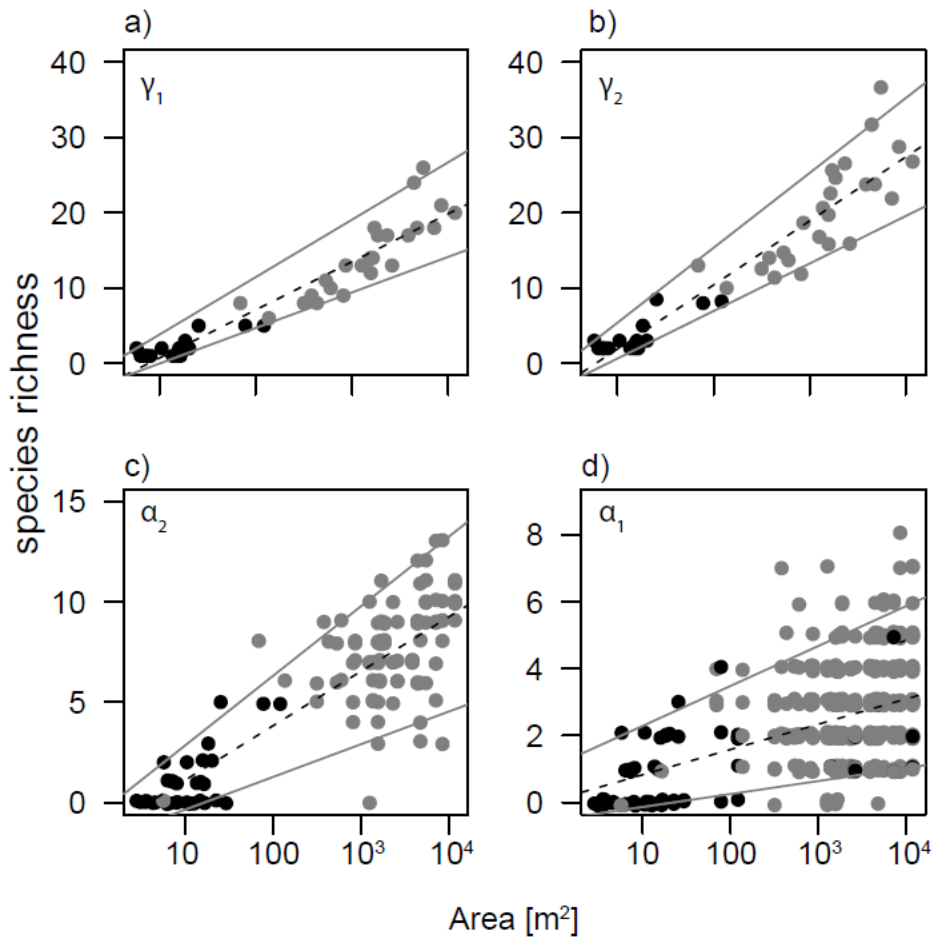
## Appendix 8

Best models explaining species richness at four different spatial scales. Shown are all models with  $\Delta\text{AICc} < 2$ , but at least the best five models. Generalised linear models were used with Gaussian distribution. We used Gaussian distribution as Poisson (only integers) or Gamma (no zero richness values allowed) distribution were not applicable to our dataset. Scales are divided into  $\alpha_1$ : size of a single subtransect,  $\alpha_2$ : size of a single transect,  $\gamma_1$ : observed species richness on a given island, and  $\gamma_2$ : estimated species richness (Jackknife 1) on a given island. SI: shape index; IsoGam: distance to Gam island; Isobuffer: surrounding landmass in 1000 m radius; soil mean: mean soil depth recorded on each island. df: degrees of freedom; AICc: second-order information criterion for small sample size; Weight: weighted AICc values.

Scale	Model	df	AICc	Weight
<b><math>\gamma_1</math></b>	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + SI	4	316.74	0.15
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + Isobuffer	4	316.99	0.13
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$	3	317.01	0.13
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + SI + Isobuffer	5	317.45	0.11
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + IsoGam	4	317.89	0.09
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + SI + IsoGam	5	318.19	0.07
<b><math>\gamma_2</math></b>	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + Isobuffer	4	269.88	0.17
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$	3	270.11	0.16
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + IsoGam	4	270.25	0.14
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + SI	4	271.57	0.07
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + SI + Isobuffer	5	271.81	0.07
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + IsoGam + Isobuffer	5	271.82	0.07
<b><math>\alpha_2</math></b>	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + soil mean	4	207.13	0.38
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + soil mean + IsoGam	5	209.47	0.12
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + soil mean + SI	5	209.50	0.12
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + soil mean + Isobuffer	5	209.50	0.12
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$	3	210.92	0.06
<b><math>\alpha_1</math></b>	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + soil mean	4	132.05	0.28
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + soil mean + Isobuffer	5	133.87	0.11
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$	3	134.08	0.10
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + SI + soil mean	5	134.26	0.09
	Area $_{[\log_{10}]}$ + soil mean + IsoGam	5	134.35	0.09

## Appendix 9

Species richness and island area (empty islands excluded, compare with Fig. 2 in main document) at four different sampling scales (a – d) with normal regression line (dashed) and 0.95 and 0.05 quantiles (grey) shown. Sampling scale is divided into  $\alpha_1$ : size of a single subtransect,  $\alpha_2$ : size of a single transect,  $\gamma_1$ : observed species richness on a given island, and  $\gamma_2$ : estimated species richness (Jackknife 1) on a given island. Points in black indicate absence of soil at the sampling scale and points in grey indicate presence of soil.



## Appendix 10

Absolute (a) and proportional (b) difference between observed species richness and expected species richness for four island classes. Expected species richness was generated by applying a null model based on incidence data (according to Burns, K. C. et al. 2009. The small-island effect: fact or artefact? – *Ecography* 32: 269–276. (a) Absolute differences between observed and expected richness are higher on very small islands than on intermediate islands and raise again for the very largest islands. The higher differences for small islands compared to intermediate island sizes hint towards the presence of the small-island effect. (b) The presence of the small-island effect in the dataset becomes particularly obvious when comparing the proportional differences between the island classes. Small islands support proportionally less species than the larger island classes. The change between large differences and small differences in the proportions occurs at around  $100 \text{ m}^2$ , which correspond to the area range of the small-island effect identified by fitting sigmoidal species-area relationships to the dataset (Fig. 3a in main document).

The applied null model can be used to test for the unambiguous presence of the small-island effect irrespective of artefacts possibly arising by axis-transformation. To construct the null model, we fitted sigmoidal models using the incidences of all species on the islands. We used the generated species occurrence probabilities for each island to assign the species randomly to the islands and extracted the resulting species richness values. This procedure was repeated 1000 times and the mean species richness for each island calculated. We then grouped islands into four island size classes (class 1: islands  $< 10 \text{ m}^2$ ; class 2: islands  $> 10 \text{ m}^2$  and  $< 100 \text{ m}^2$ ; class 3: islands  $> 100 \text{ m}^2$  and  $< 1000 \text{ m}^2$ ; class 4: islands  $> 1000 \text{ m}^2$ ) and tested whether the mean species richness values of the random communities differed from the observed values within the island size classes (Burns et al. 2009).

