

DATA PAPER

A 16th-century biodiversity and crop inventory

Duarte S. Viana  | Francisco Blanco-Garrido | Miguel Delibes  | Miguel Clavero 

Estación Biológica de Doñana,
Seville, Spain

Correspondence

Duarte S. Viana
Email: dviana@ebd.csic.es

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Abstract

Documenting and understanding long-term biodiversity change is limited by the availability of historical data, particularly from periods preceding major anthropogenic changes associated with the Industrial Revolution. We mined the information of a standardized historical survey developed in 628 localities across Spain between 1574 and 1582 (*Relaciones Topográficas de Felipe II*) with the goal of producing a general characterization of Spanish settlements, including, though not limited to, natural resources. From this survey, we were able to gather 7309 records for 75 wild plant taxa, 89 wild animal taxa, and 60 crop and domestic animal taxa. These data can be used to reconstruct historical land use and habitat cover, and model historical distributions of many species, including emblematic ones such as wolf and bear, which can establish reference distributions to assess range and niche expansion, contraction, and shifts. Data are provided under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC-BY-NC) 4.0 License. Please cite this data paper when the data are used in publications. The authors are open to collaborate in projects based on this dataset.

KEYWORDS

16th century, biodiversity baseline, historical ecology, historical records, pre-industrial era, species distributions, species presence




CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The complete data set is available as Supporting Information (Data S1). Data is also available in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) at <https://doi.org/10.15470/sqvd69>.

ORCID

Duarte S. Viana  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7864-0871>
 Miguel Delibes  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3569-567X>
 Miguel Clavero  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5186-0153>

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

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