



Biodiversity and community composition of native bee populations vary among human-dominated land uses within the seasonally dry tropics

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Abstract

Human-dominated land uses constitute a large and growing proportion of global land cover, so understanding their potential to support biodiversity is critical for effective conservation. Here, we asked how bee diversity and community composition differ among common human dominated land uses (teak plantations, coffee agroforestry, and pastures) during wet and dry seasons in the Nicoya Peninsula of Costa Rica. We sampled over two years using blue vane and pan traps, collecting 47 genera and 119 species and morphospecies of bees. We observed similar numbers of bees in coffee farms and high elevation pastures, but collected substantially more bees in low elevation pastures relative to teak plantations during both seasons. Shannon diversity was greatest in pastures, with an estimated 20 more common species in low elevation pastures relative to teak plantations and estimated 13 more common species in high elevation pastures relative to coffee. Teak plantations were dominated by distinct taxa during the dry season compared to the other land uses, hosting stem-nesting genera such as *Ceratina* but lacking oil collecting groups like *Centris* and *Epicharis*. Our findings reflect the seasonal availability of habitat: teak is managed as a monoculture and blooms during the wet season, when fewer bees are active. In contrast, shade trees in pastures provide nectar, pollen, and nesting substrates throughout the year.

Implications for insect conservation: Our study provides baseline information on regional bee biodiversity in a tropical agroecosystem, demonstrating the influence of both season and land use on an important group of pollinators in this system. To avoid biodiversity trade-offs, policies that incentivize the establishment of teak plantations as a form of reforestation should incorporate land management that enhances habitat of important insects such as native bees.

Keywords Biodiversity · Hymenoptera (Apoidea) · Payments for environmental services · Pollinators · Teak plantations · Wild bees

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Introduction

Biodiversity loss is occurring rapidly in the 21st century, with extinctions taking place at 100–1000 times the background rate (Dirzo et al. 2014; Pimm et al. 2014). This is in part due to land use change and intensification, which reduces and fragments natural habitats (Foley et al. 2005; Flynn et al. 2009; Allan et al. 2015). The establishment and maintenance of protected areas is one essential strategy for preventing the loss of remaining natural habitats, but with the rapid expansion of human-dominated land uses, especially in the tropics, there is an increased focus on the conservation potential of privately managed lands (Bawa et al. 2004; Harvey et al. 2008; Chazdon et al. 2009; Watson and Venter 2017). Supporting both biodiversity and resource production for a growing human population will require a

better understanding of the extent to which strategically managed agroecosystems can provide habitats that conserve the maximum number of taxa (DeFries et al. 2007).

Payments for Environmental Services (PES) address this need for conservation outside of conventional protected areas. Defined as voluntary transactions designed to generate offsite services from natural resource management on private land (Wunder 2015), PES typically provide payments to landowners for maintaining certain land uses, land cover types, or management practices that support biodiversity and ecosystem services in working landscapes (e.g., Bennett 2008; Pagiola 2008; Muñoz-Piña et al. 2008). In Costa Rica, one of the first countries to adopt PES, incentives are available in exchange for the establishment or maintenance of native forests, certain agroforestry systems, and tree plantations (Pagiola 2008; FONAFIFO 2020a). From 2010–2019, the PES program in Costa Rica maintained > 9500 contracts supporting environmental services on privately owned forests and agroforestry systems (FONAFIFO 2020b).

One of the objectives of Costa Rica's PES program is to reforest or slow deforestation on privately owned land, including pastures (Pagiola 2008). Though some pastures are left to naturally develop into secondary forest, some have been replaced with tree plantations, including those of non-native teak (*Tectona grandis*) (Healey and Gara 2003; Vallejo et al. 2006). Biodiversity of mammals, invertebrates, birds, and plants is lower in monoculture tree plantations compared to secondary forests (Barlow et al. 2007; Stephens and Wagner 2007; Yue et al. 2015), but little is known about the relative biodiversity of animals in teak versus the human-dominated land uses such as pastures that plantations often replace (Brockerhoff et al. 2008; Hallet et al. 2011). For PES and similar conservation strategies to successfully support biodiversity and ecosystem services in tropical agroecosystems, decisionmakers need baseline data on ecologically important species within common human-dominated land uses, including PES-incentivized plantations.

Pollinators are important components of natural and human-dominated systems, as they support both biodiversity maintenance (Ollerton et al. 2011) and crop production (Klein et al. 2007; Garibaldi et al. 2013). Bees (Hymenoptera: Apiformes) are the primary animal pollinators in many regions of the world (Klein et al. 2007), and they are sensitive to various anthropogenic activities such as land use change and intensification (Winfree et al. 2009; Potts et al. 2010). However, most studies on bee populations in agricultural settings have been done in North America and Europe, where landscapes typically have a low proportion of remaining natural habitat and farms are managed intensively (Winfree et al. 2009, Winfree et al. 2011; Archer et al. 2014). In less intensively managed agroecosystems, human-dominated land uses may provide a variety of nesting substrates and foraging resources for bees (Tylianakis et al.

2005; Tschardt et al. 2005, Winfree et al. 2011, Kennedy et al. 2013). Though deforestation and agricultural intensification may pose threats for bee populations, we lack reliable data on which to base pollinator conservation efforts in the Neotropics (Freitas et al. 2009; Archer et al. 2014; De Palma et al. 2016; Bartomeus et al. 2019).

In this study, we surveyed wild bee communities among common human-dominated land uses in a tropical agroecosystem, asking: 1) How do bee abundance and diversity differ among common human-dominated land uses (i.e., coffee agroforestry, teak plantations, and pasture)? 2) How does community composition (i.e., the relative abundance of bee genera) differ among these land uses? 3) How are these patterns influenced by seasonality? We hypothesized that bee abundance and diversity would be lowest in teak plantations, which are managed as monocultures, and highest in coffee agroforestry, which is typically managed with diverse flowering shade trees in the region, supporting high biodiversity (Perfecto et al. 1996; Bhagwat et al. 2008). Furthermore, tropical bee communities are highly variable over space and time in human-dominated land uses (Tylianakis et al. 2005). Many bee species in the seasonally dry tropics are more active during the dry season, but the majority can be found in both the dry and wet season (Heithaus 1979). Thus, we expected that the abundance of bee communities would change between the dry and wet seasons, peaking in teak plantations and coffee agroforestry during their respective blooming seasons, and that diversity would be greatest during the dry season among all land uses.

Bee community composition is often different among distinct habitats even when diversity measures are the same (e.g., Tylianakis et al. 2005; Brosi et al. 2008; Harrison et al. 2018), and tropical bees are diverse in their floral resource and nesting preferences (Roubik 1989). We therefore also hypothesized that bee communities in teak plantations, which flower in the wet season only, would be taxonomically distinct relative to coffee agroforestry and pastures, which harbor native shade trees that generally bloom in the dry season (Frankie et al. 2004). Furthermore, teak plantations lack habitat diversity (e.g., nesting locations for cavity-nesting bees in older trees), so we expected that a wider range of bee functional groups would be supported in coffee agroforestry and pastures (Jha et al. 2014; Caudill et al. 2017).

Methods

Study region, land use descriptions, and site selection

We tested our hypotheses in the Nicoya Peninsula of Northwestern Costa Rica (Fig. 1). The peninsula, bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Gulf of Nicoya to the

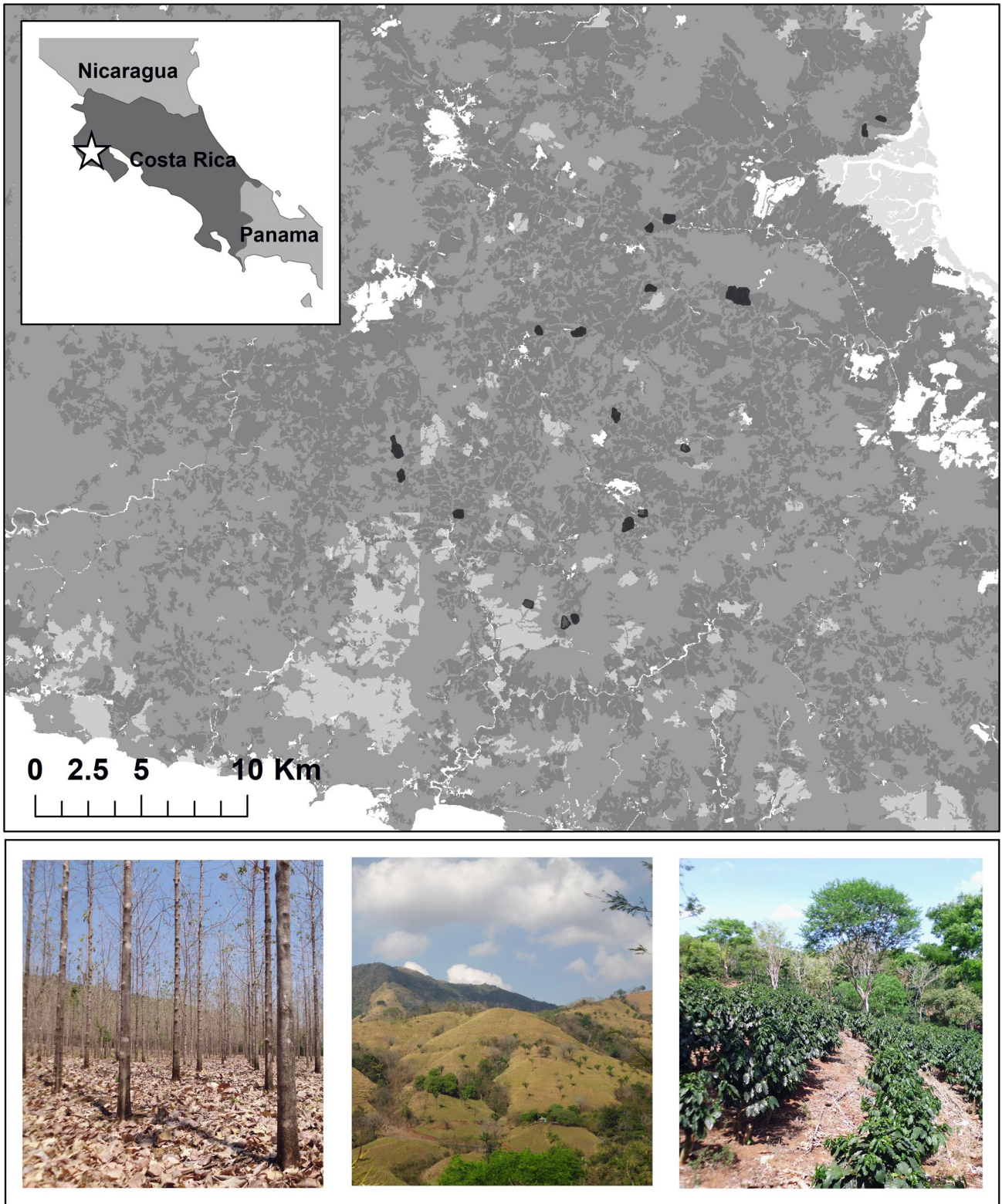


Fig. 1 Location of study region within the context of Central America (upper inset) and location of study sites within a land use map of the central Nicoya Peninsula (main map). Study sites are shaded in black, with surrounding land uses including forest and mangrove

(darkest grey), pasture (mid-grey), non-forest (lightest grey; representing agricultural, urban, or fallow land), and tree plantations (white). Photographs show a teak plantation (lower left), pasture (lower center) and coffee farm (lower right) during the dry season.

east, is a mix of seasonally dry and moist tropical ecological life zones (Calvo-Alvarado et al. 2009). About 95% of the average 1800 mm of rainfall occurs from May to November (Mata and Echeverria 2004), with dry weather extending from approximately December through April. Tropical dry forests are among the most endangered ecosystems in the world with about 97% currently exposed to a high level of threats, including conversion to agriculture (Miles et al. 2006). The Nicoya Peninsula has undergone substantial land use change from the mid-1900s to the present because of deforestation for livestock production, then subsequent land abandonment and reforestation (Vallejo et al. 2006). Currently, the peninsula is comprised of a heterogeneous landscape including secondary forest regrowth, pastures, tree plantations, and agricultural crops (Calvo-Alvarado et al. 2009).

We selected three of these land uses for this study—coffee agroforestry, pasture, and teak plantations—based on their relation to PES policy (FONAFIFO 2013), prevalence in the Nicoya Peninsula, and importance in contributing to local livelihoods (Vallejo et al. 2006; Calvo-Alvarado et al. 2009). Coffee is the third largest crop in Costa Rica in terms of export value (SEPSA 2019) and the land use covers nearly 85,000 ha of the country (INEC 2015). The “Agroforestry Systems” PES modality (FONAFIFO 2020a) provides benefits to landowners who manage their coffee farms to support biodiversity, and there is evidence that coffee agroforestry supports diversity of bees and other wildlife (e.g., Jha and Vandermeer 2010; Caudill et al. 2017). Local coffee management in the Nicoya Peninsula (which was reflected in our study sites) is typically non-organic and includes maintaining shade tree species such as avocado (*Persea americana*), orange (*Citrus cinensis*) and Poro (*Erythrina fusca*) (see Supplementary materials S3). None of the farms selected for this study were under certification schemes.

Pastures are one of the most dominant land uses in Costa Rica, covering approximately 1,100,000 hectares and representing 21.5% of the national territory (Serna et al. 2017). Regional pastures, which can also be supported through the Agricultural Systems PES modality, typically contain live fences and shade trees (Gutierrez et al. 2014; see Supplementary materials S3). Regional pastures (as typified in our study sites) use grasses known locally as ‘pasto mejorado’ or ‘improved pasture’ (*Hyparrhenia rufa*), which were introduced to support grazing during the long dry season (Pohl 1983). Our sites were used for grazing cattle and occasionally horses. High-elevation pastures selected for this study ranged from 587–748 MASL, and low elevation pastures ranged from 35–347 MASL.

Plantations of teak, a tropical hardwood deciduous species native to Southeast Asia, are incentivized by the ‘Reforestation’ PES modality in Costa Rica (FONAFIFO 2020a). Though teak plantations are less common than coffee or

pastures, they currently cover approximately 47,000 ha in Costa Rica (INEC 2015) and teak is one of the most economically important timber species in the tropics (FAO 2015). Plantations used in this study were between 15 and 20 years old. The understory was heavily managed via manual weeding and herbicide (Galbraith, *personal observation*) and no other tree species were inter-planted with the teak, though a few trees remained in the land uses from before the plantations were established.

Though we were interested in comparing bee communities among these three land uses, the elevational difference between coffee agroforestry and teak plantations was a potential barrier to making direct comparisons. To address this issue, we paired both teak plantations and coffee agroforestry with nearby pastures and made comparisons within elevational groups. We refer to the pastures that were paired with coffee agroforestry as ‘high elevation pasture’ and those paired with teak as ‘low elevation pasture’, and we focus on comparisons within these elevational categories throughout.

We selected 20 farms (referred to as “sites”) for this study. This included five sites each of coffee farms, high elevation pasture, low elevation pasture, and teak plantations. To select farms for sampling, we first established a list of potential locations for the study based on farmer willingness to participate and site location, seeking farms located within Hojancha and Nicoya counties. We then selected farms from this list that represented the elevational and moisture gradient of the Nicoya Peninsula (Fig. 1) and that fit the typical size range and management regime for the region, as described above. To ensure independence within land use replicates, sites within the same land use category were > 2 km apart. A detailed description of each site, including area and location, is included in the Supplementary Materials (S1).

Sampling design

We sampled bee populations on the 20 sites over a 2-year period: March 2013–November 2014. Bees were collected with blue vane traps (BVTs, SpringStar Inc.TM; Stephen and Rao 2005) during both years and pan traps (Prado et al. 2017) were added during the second year of sampling only. We initially used only BVTs because they were better suited to the extreme differences between the wet and dry season sampling conditions, as we could prevent them from overflowing during periods of rain. However, although BVTs have been shown to be effective in temperate agricultural systems (Stephen and Rao 2007), they have rarely been used in tropical settings (*but see* Samnegård et al. 2015). In addition, studies increasingly recommend using a combination of methods when sampling bees to reduce issues stemming from trap bias (Prendergast et al. 2020). To address this shortcoming, we added pan traps during the second year

because they have been used extensively for bee research (Westphal et al. 2008) and are recommended for estimating bee richness in tropical systems (Prado et al. 2017). We made pan traps by painting the inside of 12-oz plastic Solo cups with fluorescent paint (for blue and yellow traps) and leaving some cups unpainted (for white traps) (Droege 2008). We added small slits at the top of each cup to allow rainwater to drain from the traps without losing specimens.

We placed one BVT and three pan traps (one of each white, yellow, and blue) at 0, 100, and 200 meters from a secondary forest location at the edge of each site. BVTs were set at floral height, so that traps had maximum visibility and sun exposure in all farm types. They did not contain any killing agent, and we fixed small drains covered in mosquito netting at the bottom of the traps to ensure that they remained dry throughout the sampling period to prevent damage to the specimens. Pan traps were filled with a solution of water, soap, and salt (as a preservative) and placed at a uniform 1.5 m from the ground on raised platforms. All traps remained in place for 72 h before collection.

We completed ten rounds of sampling over 2 years (see Supplementary Materials S2 for sampling dates), including five sampling rounds during the wet season (June–November) and five during the dry season (December–May). The late dry season sampling dates coincided with the coffee blooming period, which occurs after the first few rain showers of the year. The mid-wet season sampling dates coincided with the blooming of teak, which occurs in June and July.

After collection, the specimens were washed, pinned and labeled, then frozen inside collection boxes to prevent molding or insect damage until they could be transferred to the U.S. All specimens were identified to genus using “The Bee Genera of North and Central America” (Michener et al. 1994), then to the lowest possible taxon at the National Biodiversity Institute in Costa Rica and the USDA Bee Lab in Logan, Utah. Several genera of neotropical bees do not have available species-level keys, but we were able to use synoptic collections at the USDA Bee Lab to assign these genera to morphospecies. Select specimens were deposited at the USDA Bee Lab for reference, and remaining voucher specimens will be deposited at the University of Idaho William Barr Entomological Museum upon publication.

Data analysis

We used Generalized Linear Mixed Models (‘GLIMMIX’ in SAS 9.4) to compare bee abundance among land uses, assuming a completely random design (Stroup 2014). The response variable (bee abundance) was calculated by pooling results from all traps and sampling dates for each site \times season combination to avoid pseudoreplication. Models thus included sampling season (2 levels: dry season

and wet season), land use (4 levels), and the interaction between season and land use as fixed effects. We also included the individual site as a random effect.

The GLMMs assumed a negative binomial error distribution with a log link to account for overdispersion due to count data with many zero observations. We evaluated model fit by assessing residuals plots and checking that the Pearson Chi-square/DF fit statistic for conditional distribution was < 1 . To account for the occasional damaged trap, we log-transformed the number of traps successfully collected per observation and included this as an offset in the model. We included sites from all land uses in a single model, but present differences in least squares means among land uses from the same elevation category only. We present estimates from least squared means with 95% confidence intervals. All results have been back-transformed to the response scale. We generated separate abundance models for BVTs and pan traps due to their potential for distinct trapping biases, then ran the models with all traps combined. Results for the two trap types are only presented separately when results differed between the two methods.

Simple counts of species often underestimate true species richness and they are biased by sampling effort and completeness, so we compared bee species richness and diversity among sites using species accumulation curves. We generated interpolated and extrapolated Hill number curves from individual-based abundance data using package ‘iNEXT’ in R version 1.2.1335 (Hsieh et al. 2016). Hill numbers are a diversity measure that represents the effective number of species in a sample (Hill 1973) and can be modelled using different orders of ‘q’. When $q = 0$, Hill numbers represent species richness, counting species equally without regard to their relative abundances. When $q = 1$, Hill numbers represent Shannon diversity, giving less weight to rare species in the sample (Hsieh et al. 2016). We compared species richness and Shannon diversity by interpolating separate sampling curves and 95% confidence intervals from bootstrapping for collections from each land use. We then interpolated curves to $3\times$ the minimum observed sample size (Hsieh et al. 2016).

To describe differences in bee composition among land use types, we explored the spatial clustering of sampling units using nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS; R version 3.4.2 *vegan* package; Oksanen 2013). NMDS is a method for graphically demonstrating the dissimilarity between variables in a reduced number of dimensions based on the pairwise distances between sites given the metrics of interest. It then positions the sites graphically in an assigned number of dimensions to maximize the rank correlation between the pairwise inter-site distances of the population metric and those of the graphical ordination (Quinn and Keough 2002). We assessed differences in communities by

genus and species, and report results by genus because stress plots were < 0.2 for genus only (Oksanen 2013).

We performed separate NMDS for wet and dry seasons because of the temporal change in habitat availability among the focal land uses. For each of the figures, we calculated the goodness of fit for the environmental variable (i.e., land use category) using the ‘envfit’ command in the *vegan* package. We plotted the results for each site as a point, then drew a polygon ‘hull’ to demonstrate the space each land use occupied in the two dimensions. Finally, we superimposed scores from each genus onto the same graph to identify genera that made samples from the different land uses more or less similar.

Results

We collected a total of 1751 bees representing five families, 47 genera, and 119 species and morphospecies (Table 1). Overall, more bees were collected during the dry season (69%) than the wet season (31%) despite equal collecting effort. Among all bees collected, the most common genera were *Ceratina*, *Xylocopa*, *Euglossa*, *Apis*, *Epicharis*, *Trigona*, and *Eulaema*. These genera, which all belong to the family Apidae, composed 71% of the bees collected in the study. Eleven genera were represented by only a single individual, including cleptoparasitic bee genera *Coelioxys* and *Osiris*. The managed European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), was one of the most common species collected (176 individuals, 10.3% of collected specimens). As such, we removed honeybees from datasets before conducting GLM-MIX abundance tests but kept them in diversity curves and descriptive comparisons of community composition. The number of bee species differed between trap types, so details of results by collection method can be accessed in the Supplementary Materials (S4).

Differences in bee abundance and diversity

Bee abundance differed between land uses ($F_{3,16} = 6.13$, $p = 0.006$), and seasons ($F_{1,16} = 26.83$, $p < 0.001$), but we did not detect a substantial interaction between these two effects ($F_{3,16} = 3.07$, $p = 0.058$). On average, we collected $> 2.5x$ more bees per site in the dry season relative to the wet season (Est = 2.74, SE = 0.19, $t = 5.18$, 95% C.I. [1.81, 4.10]). Bee abundance was greater in coffee farms during the dry season compared to the wet season (Est = 5.97, SE = 0.37, $t = 4.78$, 95% C.I. [2.70, 13.20]). Bee abundance was also greater in nearby high elevation pastures during the dry season compared to the wet season (Est = 3.48, SE = 0.38, $t = 2.31$, 95% C.I. [1.53, 7.94]). However, we did not find evidence for seasonal differences in bee abundance in low elevation pasture (Est = 1.28, SE = 0.37, $t = 0.69$,

95% C.I. [0.58, 2.87]) or teak plantations (Est = 2.03, SE = 0.39, $t = 1.79$, 95% C.I. [0.88, 4.70]).

During the dry season, we did not find evidence for differences in bee abundance between coffee farms and high elevation pastures (Fig. 2a; Est = 0.89, SE = 0.39, $t = -0.30$, 95% C.I. [0.38, 2.06]). We did not find evidence for differences in bee abundance in these land uses during the wet season, either (Fig. 2b; Est = 0.52, SE = 0.42, $t = -1.52$, 95% C.I. [0.21, 1.26]). We did detect differences in bee abundance between land uses at lower elevations: bee abundance was $> 2.5x$ greater on average in low elevation pastures compared to teak plantations during the dry season (Fig. 2a; Est = 2.68, SE = 0.36, $t = 2.54$, 95% C.I. [1.10, 6.51]) and $> 4x$ greater in the wet season (Fig. 2b; Est = 4.21, SE = 0.36, $t = 3.40$, 95% C.I. [1.78, 9.99]). Abundance comparisons were consistent between trapping methods, except among high elevation sites during the wet season, when there was evidence for lower abundance in coffee versus high elevation pastures in the BVT only model (Est = 0.37, SE = 0.44, $t = -2.24$, 95% C.I. [0.15, 0.95]), but not the pan trap only model (Est = 0.89, SE = 0.37, $t = -0.31$, 95% C.I. [0.40, 1.97]).

Interpolated species richness curves show lower observed species richness in teak plantations compared to low elevation pastures (Fig. 3a) and similar observed species richness in coffee agroforestry and high elevation pastures (Fig. 3b). However, species richness curves did not reach asymptote, even when extrapolated to $3x$ the number of individuals collected in teak plantations, where we had the smallest sample. Thus, we do not have enough evidence to draw conclusions about differences in species richness between land uses despite frequent sampling. However, Shannon diversity curves did reach asymptote (Fig. 3c and d). Extrapolated models estimated 20 fewer species in teak plantations relative to low elevation pastures (Fig. 3c). Likewise, high elevation pastures had an estimated 13 more common species than coffee agroforestry based on the Shannon diversity Hill numbers, which give rare species less weight relative to richness estimates (Fig. 3d).

Bee community composition

Bee community composition was distinct among the studied land uses. The most common bee collected was different in each land use, with the non-native honeybee composing almost 25% of the trapped specimens in coffee agroforestry, and a single morphospecies in subgenus *Ceratina* (*Calloceratina*) composing nearly 50% of the collection in teak plantations (Table 2). High elevation pastures were dominated by *Epicharis angulosa*, though they composed only $\sim 12\%$ of specimens collected. One morphospecies of *Euglossa* made up $\sim 14\%$ of bees collected in low elevation pastures, and the same morphospecies

Table 1 Species/morphospecies collected in the study, organized in alphabetical order by family, then species. Columns represent the number collected in each land use followed by the total number collected

Species/morphospecies	Family	Coffee	Teak	High elevation pasture	Low elevation pasture	Total
<i>Protandrena</i> sp. 1	Andrenidae	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Ancylloscelis</i> sp. 4 ^a	Apidae	0	1	0	5	6
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Apidae	105	13	34	24	176
<i>Centris aethyctera</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Centris aff. bicolor</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	7	8
<i>Centris bicornuta</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Centris dentata</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Centris fuscata</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Centris labrosa</i>	Apidae	1	0	3	2	6
<i>Centris rubella</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Centris varia</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	2	3
<i>Centris vidua</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Cephalotrigona zexmeniae</i>	Apidae	1	0	1	0	2
<i>Ceratina (Calloceratina)</i> sp. 3 ^a	Apidae	2	96	0	86	184
<i>Ceratina (Calloceratina)</i> sp. 2 ^a	Apidae	2	10	6	5	23
<i>Ceratina (Ceritinula)</i> sp. 1	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Ceratina (Crewella)</i> sp. 5 ^a	Apidae	5	0	5	0	10
<i>Ceratina eximia</i>	Apidae	20	4	12	2	38
<i>Ceratina ignara</i>	Apidae	0	0	8	0	8
<i>Ceratina rectangulifera</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Ceratina</i> sp. 1	Apidae	0	1	1	0	2
<i>Ceratina (Zadontomerus)</i> sp. 4 ^a	Apidae	3	1	2	1	7
<i>Diadasia olivacea</i>	Apidae	1	0	0	1	2
<i>Epicharis angulosa</i>	Apidae	5	2	49	56	112
<i>Epicharis lunulata</i>	Apidae	1	0	4	3	8
<i>Epicharis maculata</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Epicharis rustica</i>	Apidae	2	1	3	1	7
<i>Eufriesea concava</i>	Apidae	0	0	4	1	5
<i>Eufriesea mexicana</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Eufriesea mussitans</i>	Apidae	0	0	3	3	6
<i>Euglossa despecta</i>	Apidae	1	0	0	2	3
<i>Euglossa imperialis</i>	Apidae	2	0	1	2	5
<i>Euglossa</i> sp. 1 ^b	Apidae	14	37	20	91	162
<i>Euglossa</i> sp. 2 ^b	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Euglossa townsendi</i>	Apidae	0	0	2	0	2
<i>Euglossa variabilis</i>	Apidae	0	1	1	0	2
<i>Euglossa viridissima</i>	Apidae	1	3	6	13	23
<i>Eulaema cingulata</i>	Apidae	8	0	8	2	18
<i>Eulaema meriana</i>	Apidae	3	0	2	1	6
<i>Eulaema nigrita</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Eulaema polychroma</i>	Apidae	5	0	32	12	49
<i>Eulaema</i> sp. 1 ^b	Apidae	8	2	24	5	39
<i>Eulaema</i> sp. 2 ^b	Apidae	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Exomalopsis similis</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	3	3
<i>Exomalopsis</i> spp.	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Florilegus condignus</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Frieseomelitta paupera</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Gaesischia exul</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Melipona beecheii</i>	Apidae	12	0	3	0	15
<i>Melissodes raphaelis</i>	Apidae	3	0	0	0	3

Table 1 (continued)

Species/morphospecies	Family	Coffee	Teak	High elevation pasture	Low elevation pasture	Total
<i>Melissodes tepaneca</i>	Apidae	4	0	6	17	27
<i>Melissodes thelypodii stulta</i>	Apidae	1	1	1	4	7
<i>Melissoptila pinguis</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Melitoma marginella or monozonula</i>	Apidae	1	2	5	5	13
<i>Melitoma</i> sp. 4 ^a	Apidae	4	1	0	2	7
<i>Mesoplia rufipes</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	1	2
<i>Nannotrigona perilampoides</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Nanorhathymus acutiventris</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Osiris mourei</i>	Apidae	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Paratetrapedia calcarata</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Paratetrapedia connexa</i>	Apidae	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Paratetrapedia (Lophopedia)</i> sp. 11 ^a	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Partamona cupira</i>	Apidae	29	0	3	1	33
<i>Partamona orizabaensis</i>	Apidae	5	0	0	0	5
<i>Peponapis crassidentata</i>	Apidae	1	0	1	26	28
<i>Peponapis limitaris</i>	Apidae	3	0	3	1	7
<i>Peponapis utahensis</i>	Apidae	0	1	0	6	7
<i>Plebeia frontalis</i>	Apidae	2	0	1	0	3
<i>Scaptotrigona pectoralis</i>	Apidae	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Scaptotrigona subobscuripennis</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Svastra nitida</i>	Apidae	0	0	1	2	3
<i>Tetragonisca angustula</i>	Apidae	1	1	0	5	7
<i>Tetraloniella donata</i>	Apidae	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Thygater cockerelli</i>	Apidae	2	0	1	0	3
<i>Trigona fulviventris</i>	Apidae	11	8	22	25	66
<i>Trigona corvina</i>	Apidae	1	0	0	1	2
<i>Trigona fuscipennis</i>	Apidae	3	0	5	41	49
<i>Xylocopa fimbriata</i>	Apidae	35	1	33	13	82
<i>Xylocopa frontalis</i>	Apidae	4	0	0	0	4
<i>Xylocopa gualanensis</i>	Apidae	75	1	22	32	130
<i>Xylocopa muscaria</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Xylocopa</i> sp. 2 ^a	Apidae	2	0	1	1	4
<i>Xylocopa subviridis</i>	Apidae	4	0	11	1	16
<i>Xylocopa viridis</i>	Apidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Ptiloglossa</i> sp. 1	Colletidae	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Halictus hesperus</i>	Halictidae	2	0	6	1	9
<i>Halictus lutescens</i>	Halictidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Lasioglossum (Dialictus)</i> sp. 1	Halictidae	7	2	10	30	49
<i>Lasioglossum (Dialictus)</i> sp. 2	Halictidae	4	0	0	1	5
<i>Lasioglossum (Dialictus)</i> sp. 3	Halictidae	1	0	2	5	8
<i>Lasioglossum (Dialictus)</i> sp. 4	Halictidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Lasioglossum (Lasioglossum)</i> sp. 2 ^a	Halictidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Augochlora (Augochlora)</i> sp. 1	Halictidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Augochlora aurifera</i>	Halictidae	0	0	0	3	3
<i>Augochlora cordiaefloris</i>	Halictidae	2	0	2	0	4
<i>Augochlora nigrocyanea</i>	Halictidae	4	1	1	3	9
<i>Augochlora quiriguensis</i>	Halictidae	1	3	2	0	6
<i>Augochlora sidafoliae</i>	Halictidae	14	3	4	4	25
<i>Augochlora smaragdina</i>	Halictidae	1	1	1	7	10
<i>Augochlora</i> sp. 1	Halictidae	0	2	3	1	6

Table 1 (continued)

Species/morphospecies	Family	Coffee	Teak	High elevation pasture	Low elevation pasture	Total
<i>Augochlora</i> sp. 2	Halictidae	1	0	1	0	2
<i>Augochlorella edentata</i>	Halictidae	0	1	1	0	2
<i>Augochlorella pomoniella</i>	Halictidae	1	9	5	26	41
<i>Augochloropsis graminea</i>	Halictidae	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Augochloropsis metallica</i>	Halictidae	0	1	5	11	17
<i>Caenaugochlora costaricensis</i>	Halictidae	3	7	2	12	24
<i>Megalopta centralis</i>	Halictidae	13	1	8	0	22
<i>Anthidium hallinani</i>	Megachilidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Anthodioctes gualanense</i>	Megachilidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Coelioxys</i> sp.	Megachilidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Megachile aff. habilis</i>	Megachilidae	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Megachile aff. incita</i>	Megachilidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Megachile aff. vestis</i>	Megachilidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Megachile (Austromegachile) sp. 3^a</i>	Megachilidae	2	0	0	1	3
<i>Megachile chichimeca</i>	Megachilidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Megachile elongata</i>	Megachilidae	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Megachile otomita</i>	Megachilidae	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Megachile</i> sp. 1	Megachilidae	0	0	1	2	3
<i>Megachile toluca</i>	Megachilidae	1	0	1	0	2
Total collected		455	222	422	652	1751

^aMorphospecies numbers based on reference specimens from Logan Bee Lab collection

^bMorphospecies are females, as keys exist for males only

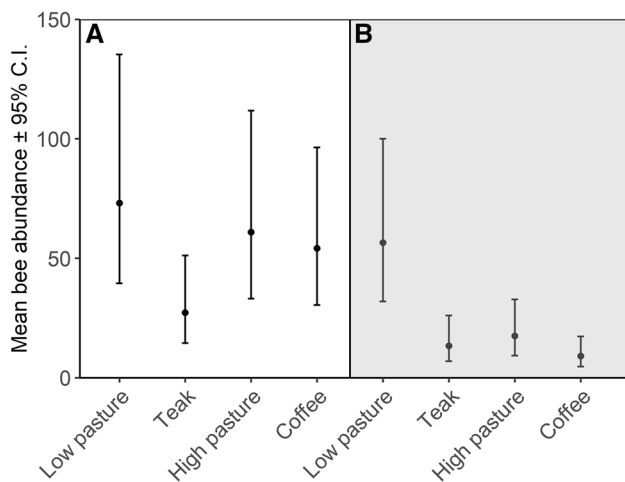


Fig. 2 Estimated mean bee abundance among land uses during the dry season (white background, **a**) and wet season (background shaded grey, **b**). Points represent least squared means per site with both trapping methods combined, and a correction in effort for the different number of traps used in the 2 years. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

of *Ceratina* (*Calloceratina*) as in teak plantations was almost equally abundant in this land use. No single species appeared as one of the five most common species in all four land uses (Table 2).

NMDS plots demonstrated patterns of differences in bee community composition during the dry season (Fig. 4a; goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.46$, $p = 0.001$). Specifically, bee communities in the dry season were distinct in teak compared to the other land uses. The observations are grouped in the portion of the graph associated with genera *Caenaugochlora*, *Augochlorella*, *Ceratina*, and *Euglossa*. We did not find evidence for substantial differences in community composition during the wet season (Fig. 4b; goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.10$, $p = 0.745$).

Discussion

Understanding the potential of human-dominated land uses for supporting biodiversity is crucial for conservation outside of protected areas. Though numerous studies have compared biodiversity in human-dominated land uses to forest habitats in the tropics, few studies have looked at how biodiversity compares among common human-dominated land uses in such regions. It is particularly important that we include novel land uses such as tree plantations in these comparisons, as they are sometimes incentivized as a method of reforestation despite varied impacts on biodiversity (Stephens and Wagner 2007; Bremer and Farley, 2010; Hallet et al. 2011). Here, we collected 2.5–4× more

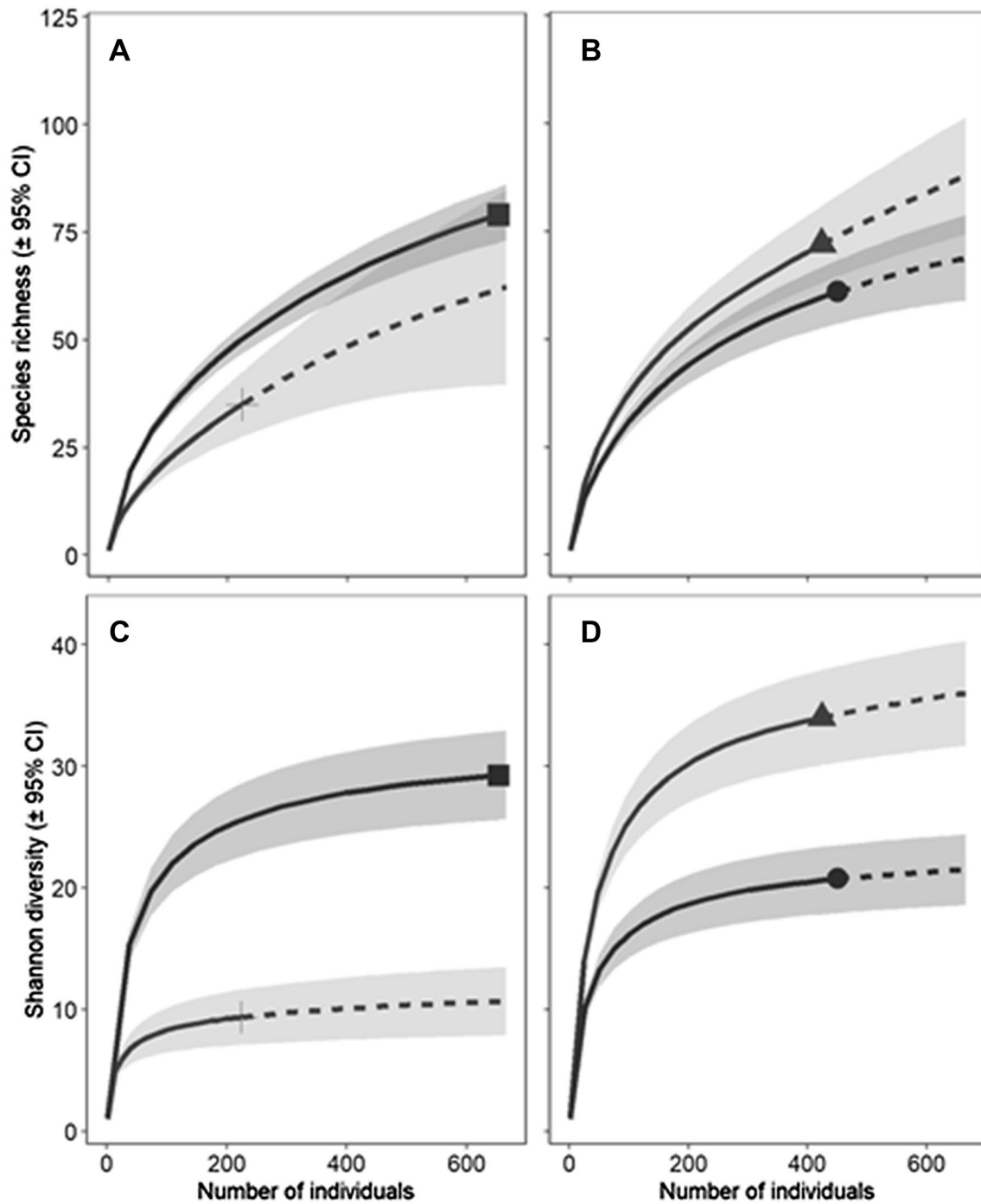


Fig. 3 Accumulation curves of Hill numbers representing species richness (a-b) and Shannon diversity (c-d). Lines represent interpolated (solid line) and extrapolated (dotted line) estimates and

points show the observed species richness for low elevation pastures (square), teak plantations (cross), high elevation pastures (triangle), and coffee farms (circle)

individuals on average in low elevation pastures relative to teak plantations, depending on the sampling season. By contrast, we did not find sufficient evidence for differences in bee abundance between high elevation pastures and coffee agroforestry in either season. Despite conducting sampling over a 2-year period during the wet and dry seasons,

we found that sample sizes were insufficient to compare species richness between sites even when we pooled samples between the seasons. However, both interpolated and extrapolated estimates of Shannon diversity were greater in pastures relative to teak and- to a lesser degree- coffee sites.

Table 2 The five most abundant species in each land use, ranked in order of abundance

Rank by abundance	Coffee agroforestry	High elevation pasture	Teak plantation	Low elevation pasture
1	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (23.1%)	<i>Epicharis angulosa</i> (11.6%)	<i>Ceratina (Calloceratina)</i> sp. 3 ^a (43.2%)	<i>Euglossa</i> sp. 1 ^b (13.9%)
2	<i>Xylocopa gualanensis</i> (16.5%)	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (8.1%)	<i>Euglossa</i> sp. 1 ^b (16.7%)	<i>Ceratina (Calloceratina)</i> sp. 3 ^a (13.2%)
3	<i>Xylocopa fimbriata</i> (7.7%)	<i>Xylocopa fimbriata</i> (7.8%)	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (5.9%)	<i>Epicharis angulosa</i> (8.6%)
4	<i>Partamona cupira</i> (6.4%)	<i>Eulaema polychroma</i> (7.6%)	<i>Ceratina (Calloceratina)</i> sp. 2 ^a (4.5%)	<i>Trigona fuscipennis</i> (6.3%)
5	<i>Ceratina eximia</i> (4.4%)	<i>Eulaema</i> sp. 1 ^b (5.7%)	<i>Augochlorella pomoniella</i> (4.1%)	<i>Xylocopa gualanensis</i> (4.9%)

Numbers in parentheses represent the percentage of all bees collected within that land use composed of the given species. Superscript letters match species names on Table 1

Although conservation strategies often target pastures as biodiversity-poor regions, traditionally managed pastures in the tropics have the potential to support a high diversity of pollinators and other organisms that thrive in open habitats (Harvey and Haber 1998; Tschardt et al. 2005; Milder et al. 2010). Despite a relatively small sample size, we collected 84 species of bees in low elevation pastures and 76 species of bees in high elevation pastures during this study, representing a substantial proportion of the estimated 785 species in the country (Griswold 2000). Traditionally managed pastures in the tropics typically contain live fences and shade trees that support animal diversity, but these resources come under threat in more intensively managed pasture systems (Harvey et al. 2011). The Costa Rican PES program has an “Agroforestry Systems” modality that serves to support the conservation of pollinator biodiversity in agroecosystems by establishing agricultural systems that include trees interspersed with crops and/or pastures (FONAFIFO 2020a). Our study indicates that this modality would provide better habitat for pollinators than the modalities that encourage the conversion of pastures into less habitat-rich land uses (e.g., teak plantations), as it supports the availability of flowering plants and nesting substrates within existing pastures.

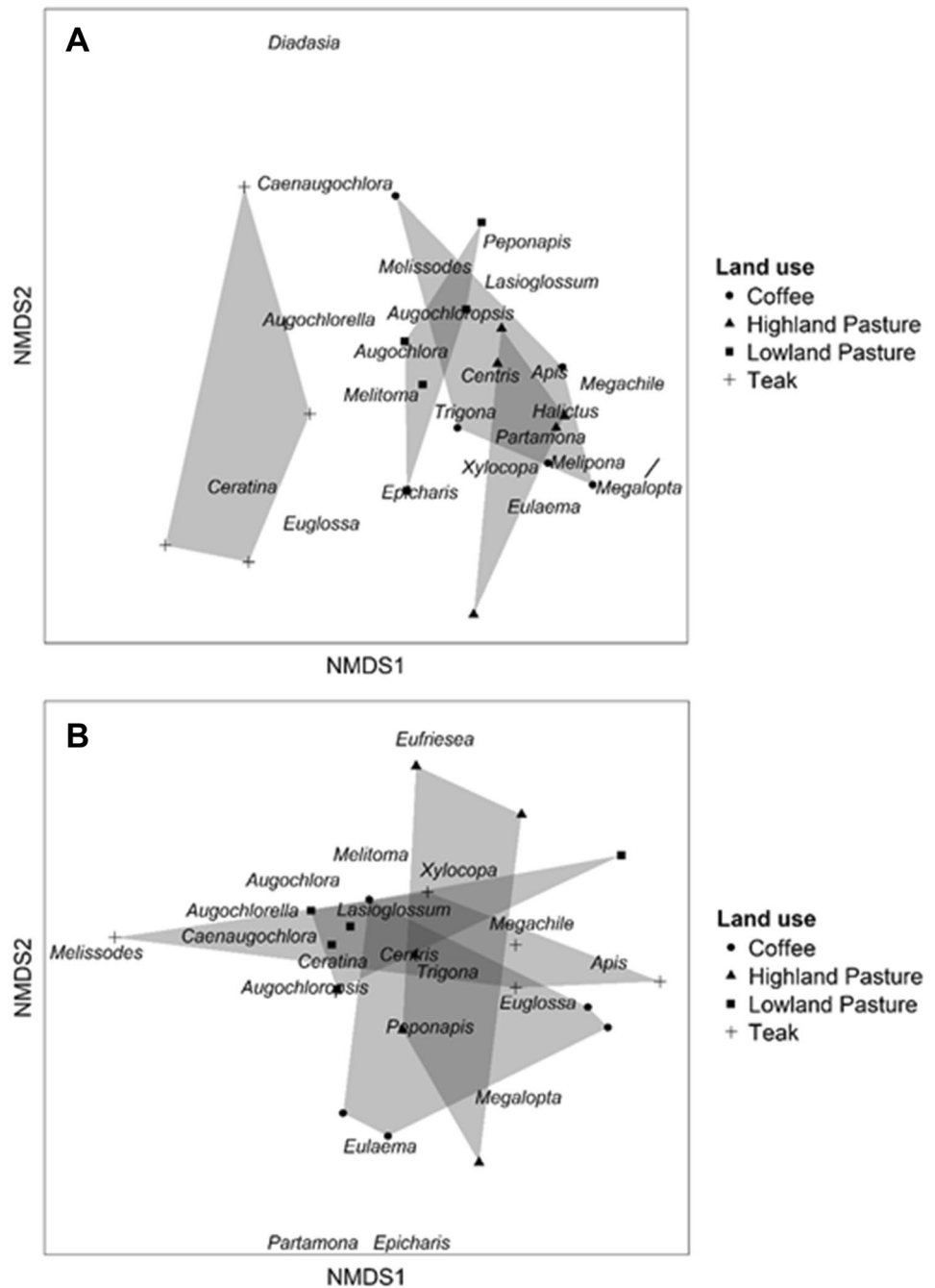
In contrast to pastures, observed bee abundance and species diversity were relatively low in teak plantations. Bee abundance in coffee farms roughly coincided with coffee bloom in the late dry season-early wet season. In contrast, bee abundance did not increase in teak farms during the blooming period (June–July). Bees are the main pollinators of teak in its native range (Tangmitcharoen et al. 2006, 2009), but teak blooms during the wet season in Costa Rica, when fewer bee species are active (Heithaus 1979; Frankie et al. 1983). The lack of bees in this land use throughout the year is particularly notable given the deciduous nature of teak, which has almost no canopy cover during the dry season. Because trapping results in teak plantations were unaffected by season, results do not appear to be driven by trap visibility or the availability of UV light. Instead, we

expect that lower abundance and richness of bee populations in teak relative to low altitude pastures is driven by the lower floral diversity in teak plantations.

In coffee and high elevation pastures, collection results varied with season. As expected, we observed greater bee abundance and richness overall in the dry season relative to the wet season. This is consistent with previous studies in the seasonally dry tropics, though many bee taxa are also active year-round (Janzen 1967; Heithaus 1979; Frankie et al. 1983; Roubik 1989). The abundance and richness of bees collected in coffee agroforestry was markedly higher in the dry season compared to the wet season. Coffee agroforestry is associated with a diversity of tree species that are maintained to provide shade and fix nitrogen within the farms (Perfecto et al. 1996; Bhagwat et al. 2008; S3), and this is known to benefit tropical bee communities (Jha and Vandermeer 2010). Both coffee and most native tree species used as shade trees in the Nicoya Peninsula flower in the dry or shoulder seasons and thus bees are likely responding to the temporal availability of flowering plants. Furthermore, the seasonality of common bees in coffee agroforestry may also drive this trend: though the most common species in coffee agroforestry (*A. mellifera*) was not included in GLMMs, the second and third most common species (*Xylocopa gualanensis* and *X. fimbriata*) influenced model results. Previous studies in similar regions of Costa Rica have observed that *Xylocopa* spp. are most active during the dry season preceding the coffee bloom (Heithaus 1979). This genus of large bees prefers flowering trees such as *Cassia grandis*, which were common in the coffee agroforestry sites we sampled (S3), and bloom in the dry season (Janzen 1967).

Bee seasonality, floral resource availability, and bee nesting ecology likely drove differences in the relative abundance of different bee genera and their functional characteristics (see S5 for a table of bee functional groups) among the four land uses based on Table 2 and Figure 4. Genera *Caenaugochlora*, *Augochlorella*, *Ceratina*, and *Euglossa*, while also present in pastures and coffee farms,

Fig. 4 a-b Distribution of bee genera for the four land uses in the dry season (**a**) and wet season (**b**) on the first NMDS plane. Shaded areas show the smallest convex polygon enclosing all points of each land use



made up a relatively larger portion of bees collected in teak plantations. One likely reason for the abundance of *Caenaugochlora* and *Augochlorella* in teak plantations is because these and other genera of halictids are often active during the wet season (Heithaus 1979), when teak blooms. *Ceratina* species have been observed visiting teak in its native range (Tangmitcharoen et al. 2006), so they may be more physiologically matched to collect resources from the small flowers on teak. In contrast, it may not be energetically efficient for buzz pollinating *Centris*, *Epicharis*, and *Xylocopa* to forage within teak plantations.

Furthermore, though we found few nests while conducting this study, it is likely that wild bees nest within some of the examined land uses. Ground-nesting *Caenaugochlora* and *Augochlorella* and stem-nesting *Ceratina* (Roubik 1989) may be able to find nesting locations between rows of teak and in the sparse understory brush. Large cavity nesters like *Xylocopa* and *Centris* were almost completely absent from teak plantations, which are harvested after 15–25 years (Vallejo et al. 2006), and therefore likely lack locations for cavity-nesting bees relative to older shade trees in pasture or coffee farms.

We chose to survey bee communities using passive sampling so we could sample across more sites and more frequently than logistically possible with active capture methods, such as hand-netting. However, despite frequent sampling, we collected a relatively small sample of bees in this study. Sampling in tropical regions presents unique challenges, such as high canopy cover and frequent rain (Prado et al. 2017), so it is common to collect fewer individuals compared to an equal sampling effort in temperate regions. Like other studies, we observed some distinct seasonal responses in BVT and pan trapped bee communities in the tropics (Samnegård et al. 2015). More data are needed to inform robust pollinator monitoring schemes and improve our understanding of how these communities shift in space and time, especially outside of the U.S. and Europe, where fewer studies overall have been conducted (Freitas et al. 2009; Archer et al. 2014; De Palma 2016; Bartomeus et al. 2019).

Our study shows that land use and season interact to influence bee abundance and diversity in a tropical agro-ecosystem. Importantly, we found no evidence that teak plantations can support bee abundance or diversity to the same extent as other human-dominated land uses in the Nicoya Peninsula region. This mirrors local perceptions that relatively few resources are available for bees in teak plantations (Galbraith et al. 2017). These findings bring into question the effectiveness of incentivizing teak plantations via PES in Costa Rica with respect to biodiversity protection, which is one of the stated ecosystem services expected from PES programs. Tree plantations are often considered to be a potential means of reforestation, and forest plantations increased by > 100 M ha from 1990 to 2015 (Keenan et al. 2015), so understanding the impact of converting pastures and other land uses to tree plantations is critical for protecting biodiversity worldwide (Barlow et al. 2007; Bremer and Farley 2010; Hallet et al. 2011). Future research should focus on ways in which management activities within human-dominated land uses in the tropics, including novel land uses like teak plantations, could increase habitat for pollinators to better support biodiversity outside of protected areas. Without considering management actions that increase native habitats, reforestation via monoculture plantations is not likely to support the biodiversity of important pollinators relative to the traditional human-dominated land uses that it is replacing.

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Data availability Reference collection data will be made available upon publication.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose related to this work.

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