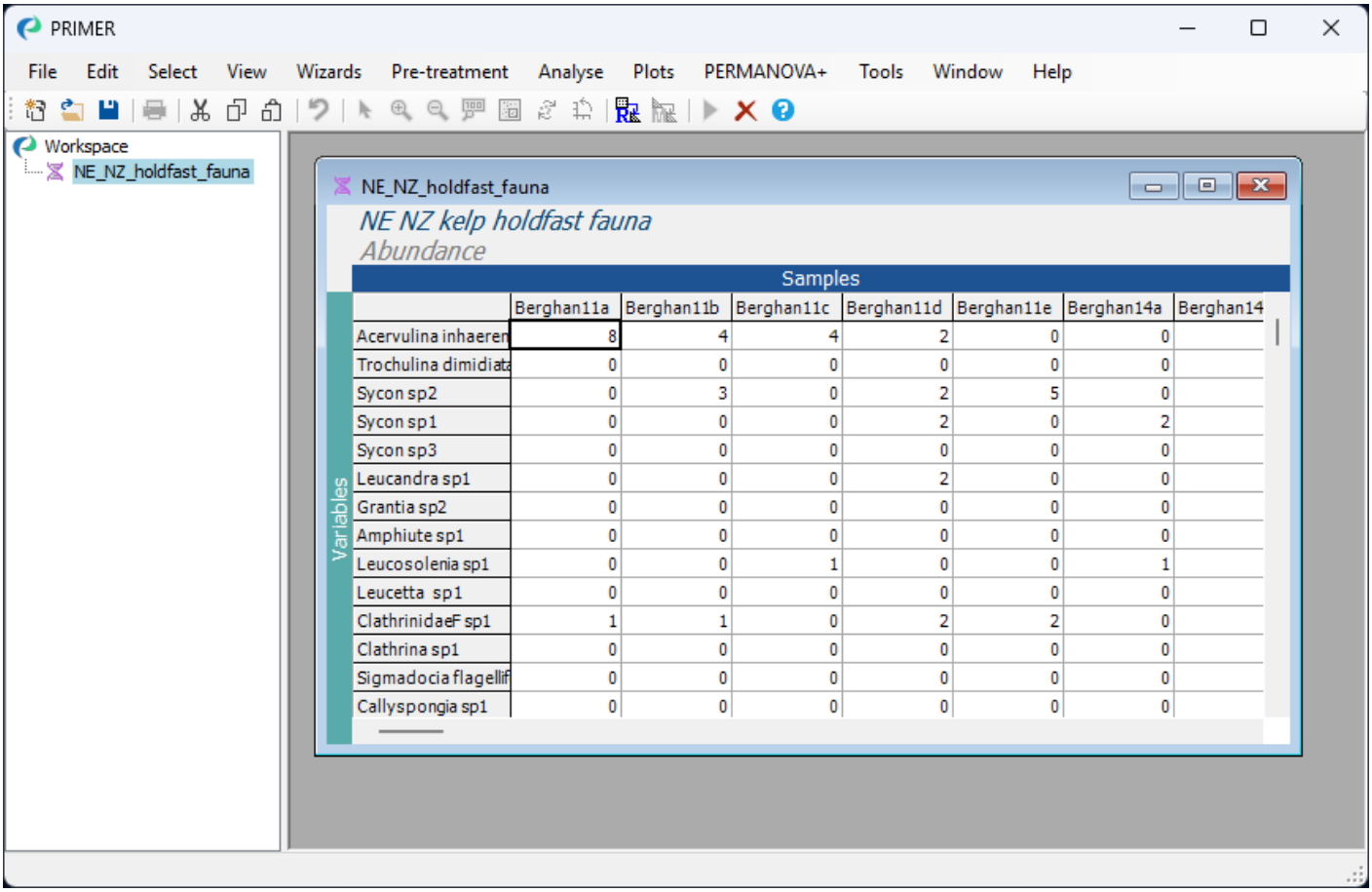
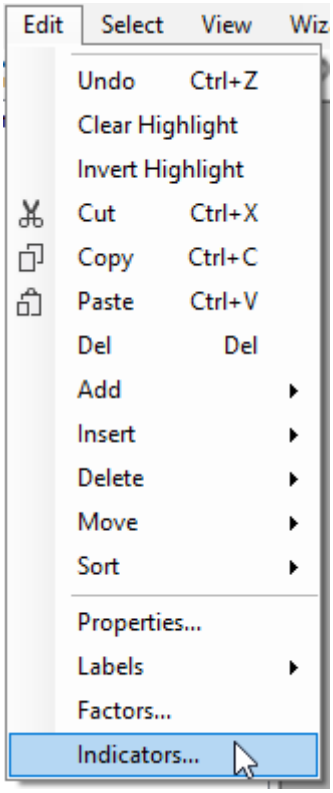
Step 1: Data selection

Open up the example data file

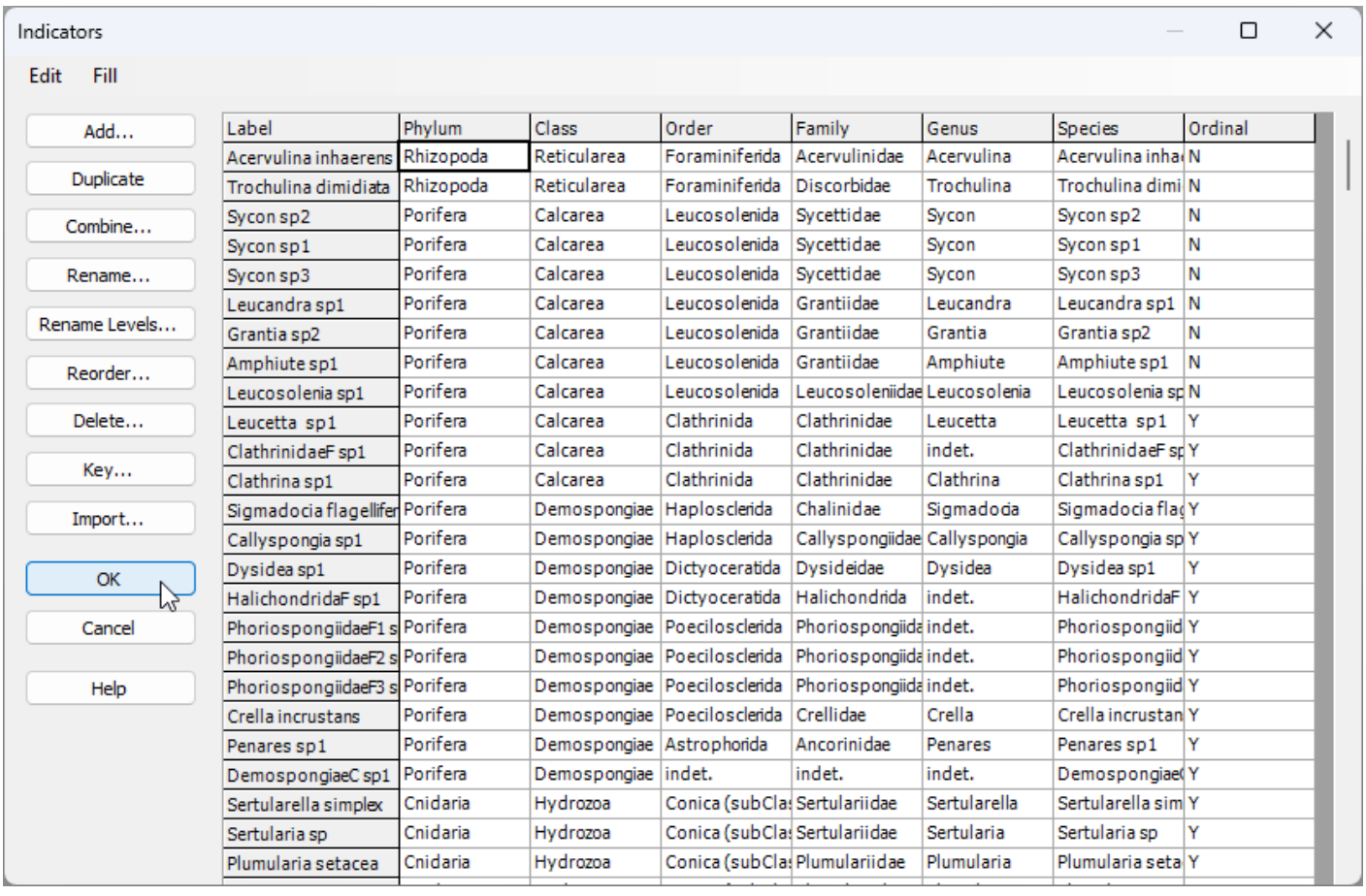
Launch PRIMER, then click **File** > **Open...** from the main menu, navigate to the folder named 'NE_NZ_holdfasts' in the 'Examples_P8' directory, and select 'NE_NZ_holdfast_fauna.pri'. Click **Open** to display the species matrix.



Click on **Edit** > **Indicators...**



You will see that there are indicators for the variables in this datasheet that show the taxonomic groups in which each species (or taxon) variable belongs, with different levels of the taxonomic hierarchy being provided as different indicators (i.e., 'Genus', 'Family', 'Order', 'Class' and 'Phylum'). There is also an indicator to identify whether individual taxa were counted (enumerated) or quantified on an ordinal scale ('Ordinal' = 'N' or 'Y', respectively).



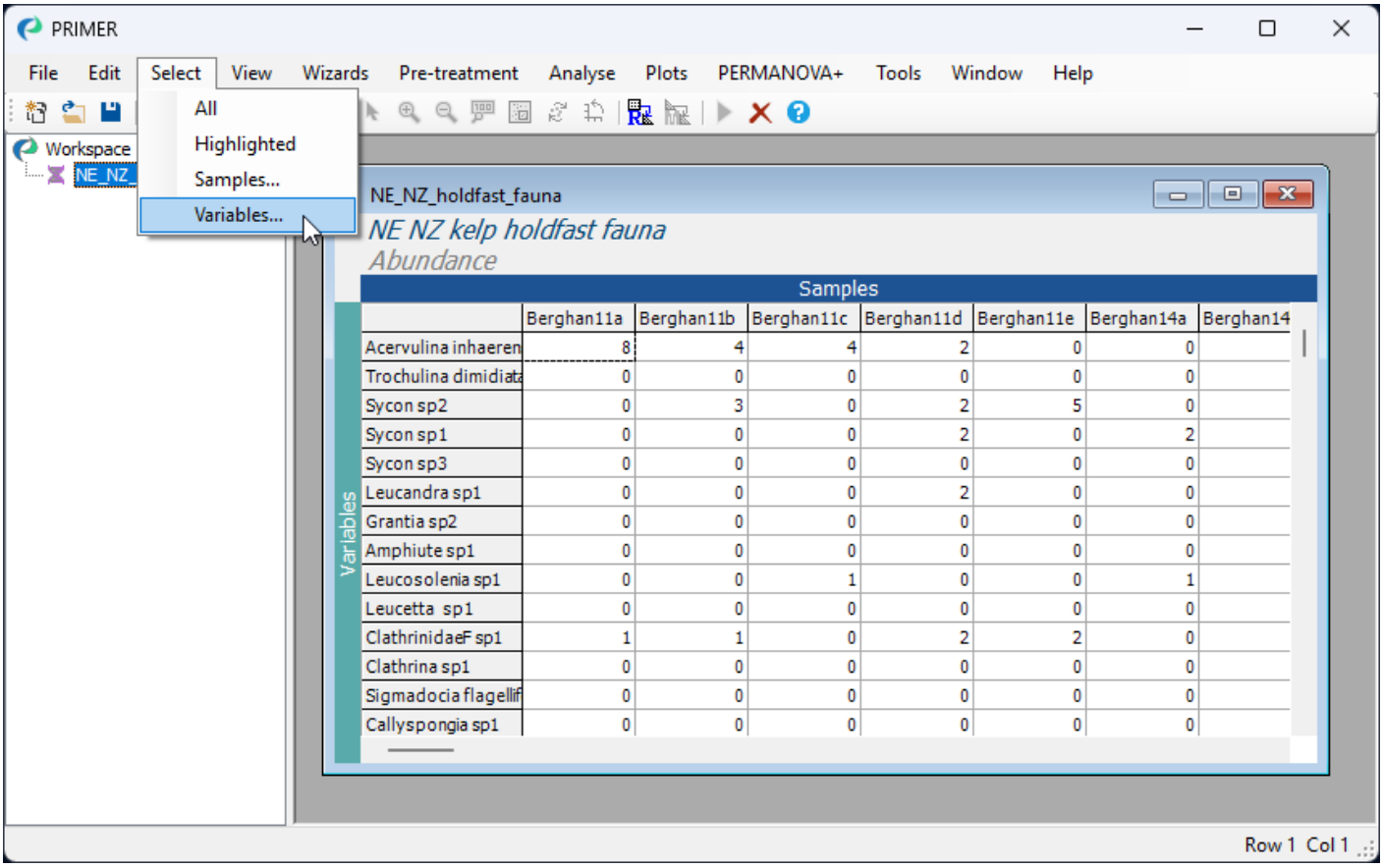
Label	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species	Ordinal
Acervulina inhaerens	Rhizopoda	Reticularea	Foraminiferida	Acervulinidae	Acervulina	Acervulina inha	N
Trochulina dimidiata	Rhizopoda	Reticularea	Foraminiferida	Discorbidae	Trochulina	Trochulina dimi	N
Sycon sp2	Porifera	Calcarea	Leucosolenida	Sycettidae	Sycon	Sycon sp2	N
Sycon sp1	Porifera	Calcarea	Leucosolenida	Sycettidae	Sycon	Sycon sp1	N
Sycon sp3	Porifera	Calcarea	Leucosolenida	Sycettidae	Sycon	Sycon sp3	N
Leucandra sp1	Porifera	Calcarea	Leucosolenida	Grantiidae	Leucandra	Leucandra sp1	N
Grantia sp2	Porifera	Calcarea	Leucosolenida	Grantiidae	Grantia	Grantia sp2	N
Amphiute sp1	Porifera	Calcarea	Leucosolenida	Grantiidae	Amphiute	Amphiute sp1	N
Leucosolenia sp1	Porifera	Calcarea	Leucosolenida	Leucosoleniidae	Leucosolenia	Leucosolenia sp	N
Leucetta sp1	Porifera	Calcarea	Clathrinida	Clathrinidae	Leucetta	Leucetta sp1	Y
ClathrinidaeF sp1	Porifera	Calcarea	Clathrinida	Clathrinidae	indet.	ClathrinidaeF sp	Y
Clathrina sp1	Porifera	Calcarea	Clathrinida	Clathrinidae	Clathrina	Clathrina sp1	Y
Sigmadocia flagellifer	Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Chalinidae	Sigmadocia	Sigmadocia fla	Y
Callyspongia sp1	Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Callyspongiidae	Callyspongia	Callyspongia sp	Y
Dysidea sp1	Porifera	Demospongiae	Dictyoceratida	Dysideidae	Dysidea	Dysidea sp1	Y
HalichondridaF sp1	Porifera	Demospongiae	Dictyoceratida	Halichondrida	indet.	HalichondridaF	Y
PhoriospongiidaeF1 s	Porifera	Demospongiae	Poecilosclerida	Phoriospongiida	indet.	Phoriospongiid	Y
PhoriospongiidaeF2 s	Porifera	Demospongiae	Poecilosclerida	Phoriospongiida	indet.	Phoriospongiid	Y
PhoriospongiidaeF3 s	Porifera	Demospongiae	Poecilosclerida	Phoriospongiida	indet.	Phoriospongiid	Y
Crella incrustans	Porifera	Demospongiae	Poecilosclerida	Crellidae	Crella	Crella incrustan	Y
Penares sp1	Porifera	Demospongiae	Astrophorida	Ancorinidae	Penares	Penares sp1	Y
DemospongiaeC sp1	Porifera	Demospongiae	indet.	indet.	indet.	DemospongiaeC	Y
Sertularella simplex	Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Conica (subCla	Sertulariidae	Sertularella	Sertularella sim	Y
Sertularia sp	Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Conica (subCla	Sertulariidae	Sertularia	Sertularia sp	Y
Plumularia setacea	Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Conica (subCla	Plumulariidae	Plumularia	Plumularia seta	Y

Click **OK** on the 'Indicators' dialog, so the data matrix is the active item in the workspace again.

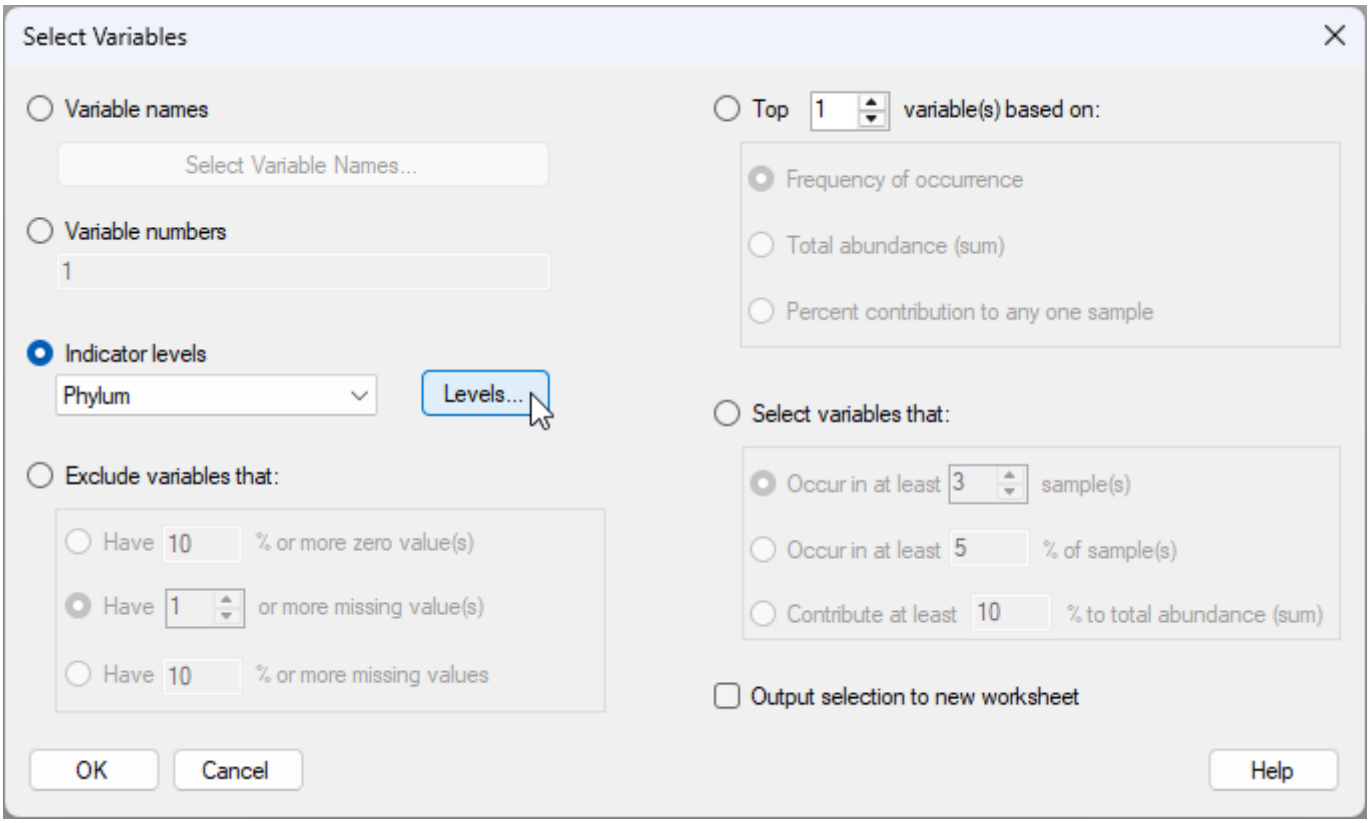
Select a subset of variables, using an indicator

We wish to select just the mollusc species for the analysis.

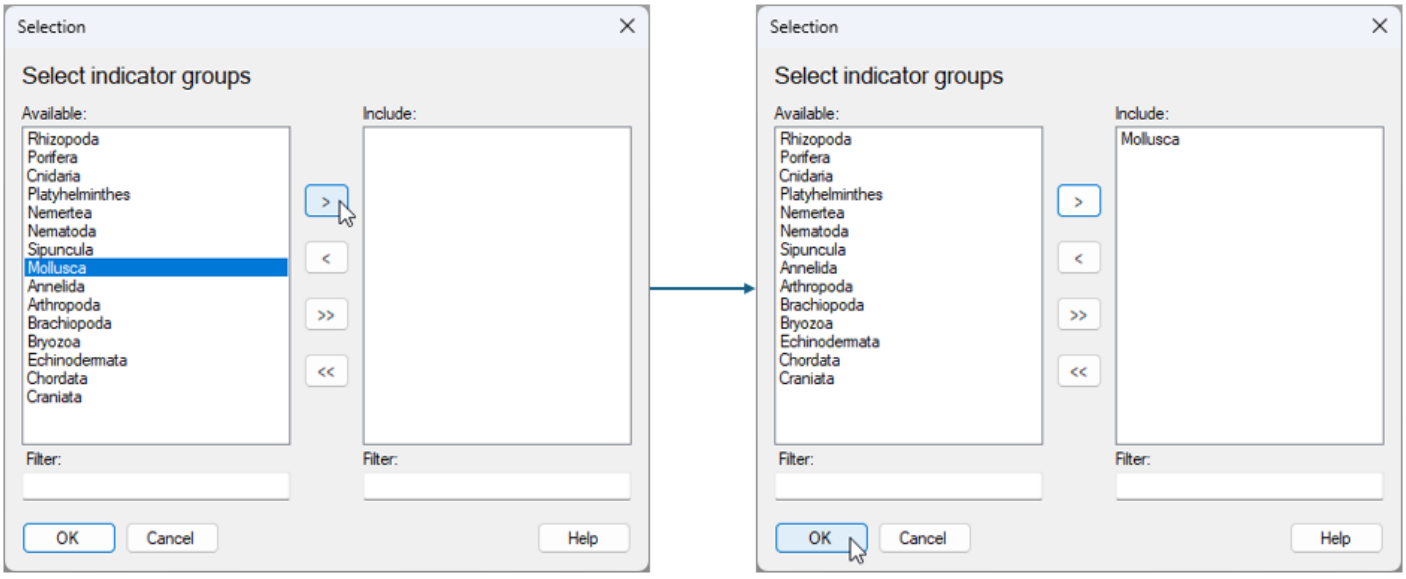
1. From the 'NE_NZ_holdfast_fauna.pri' data sheet, click **Select** > **Variables...**



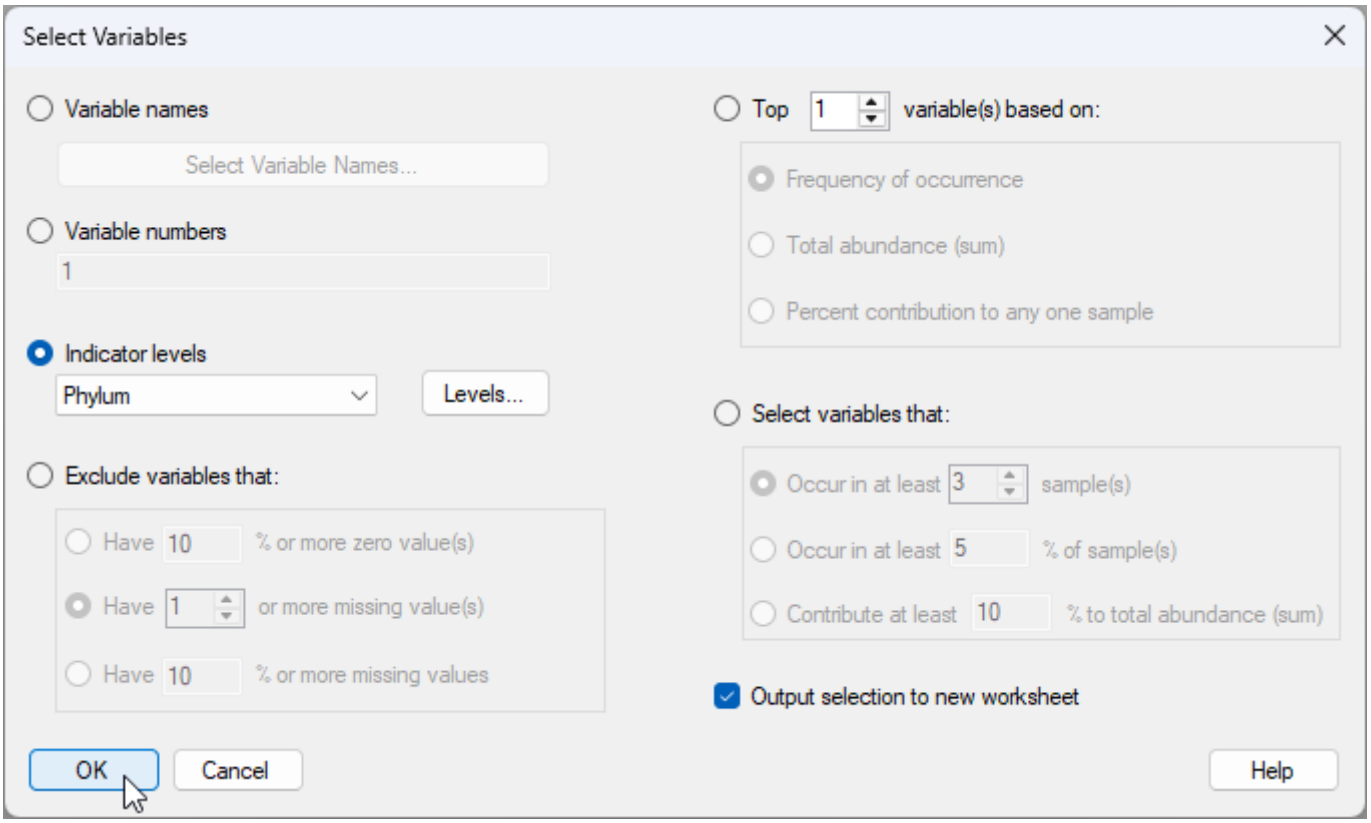
2. In the 'Select Variables' dialog, choose ($\bullet$Indicator levels > Phylum) and click **Levels...**.



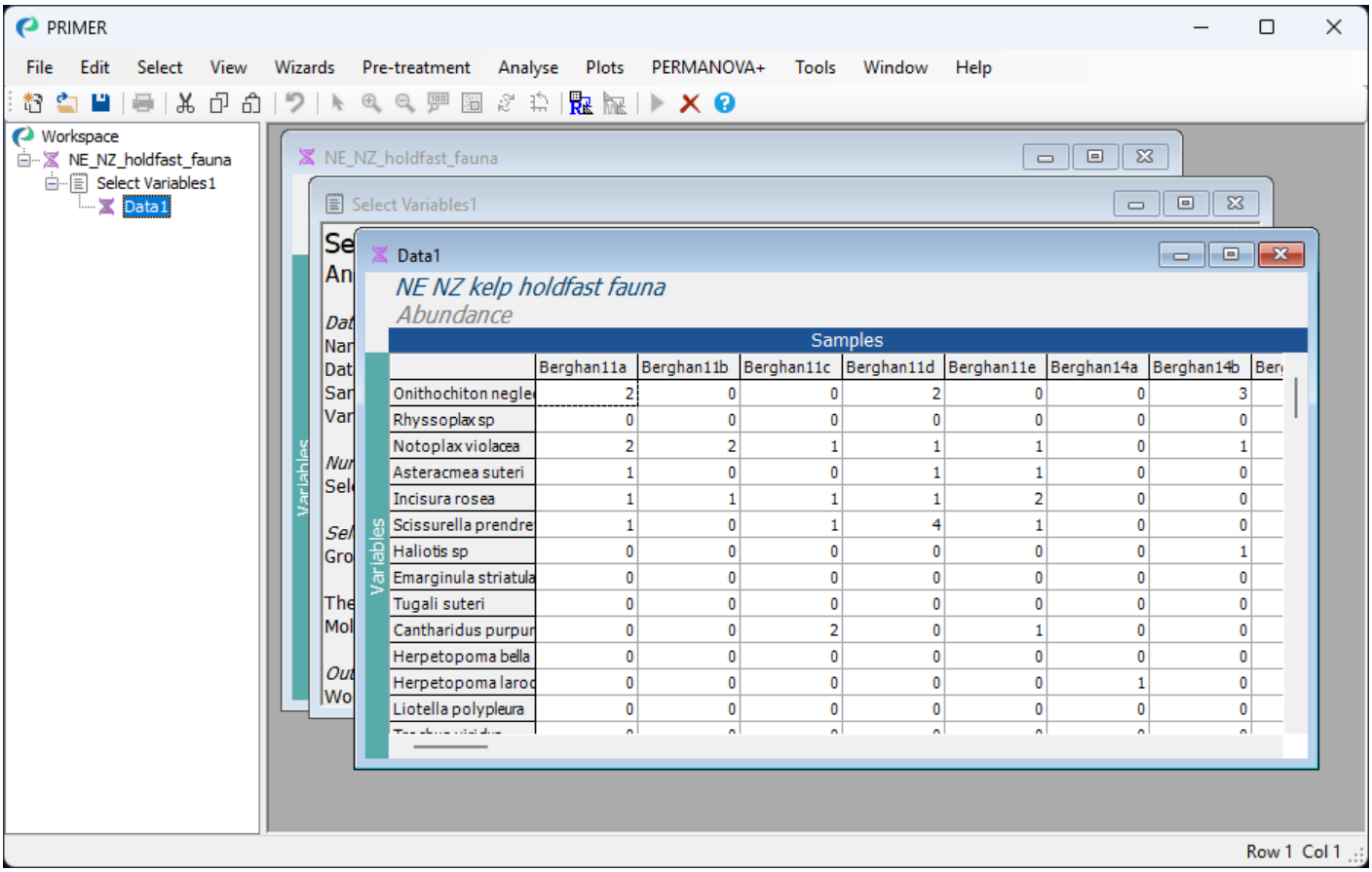
3. In the 'Selection' dialog, click on the word 'Mollusca' in the list of 'Available' phylum categories, and click on the single-right-arrow button:  . This will move the word 'Mollusca' over to the 'Include:' box on the right-hand side of the 'Selection' dialog window. Click **OK**.



4. Now that we have selected the Molluscs, and we are back in the 'Select Variables' dialog window, we *also* want to choose to '$\checkmark$ Output selection to new worksheet', as shown below. This will kick out just the variables that we have selected into a new worksheet for ensuing analysis. We can now click **OK** on the 'Select Variables' dialog.



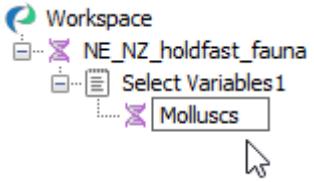
Voila! Now you have just the mollusc species alone in a new worksheet called 'Data1'¶.



Rename the selected subset of data

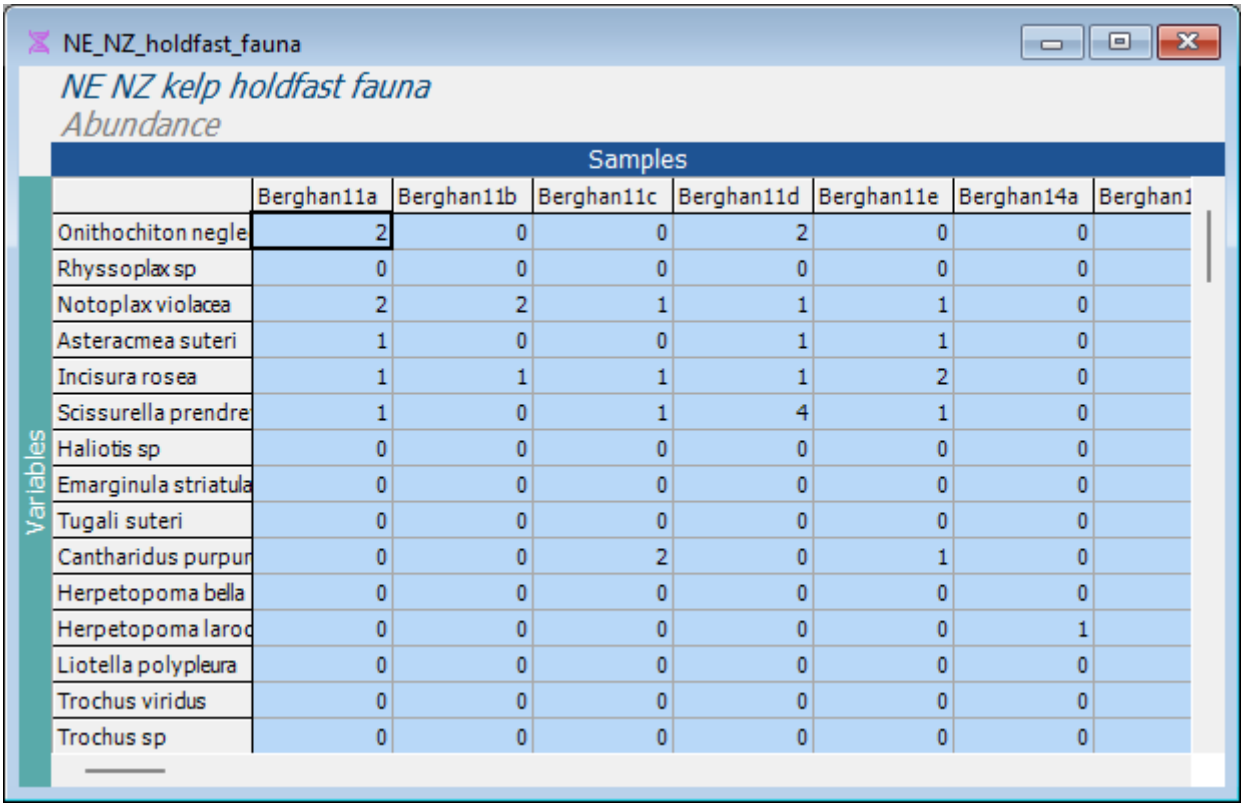
From the subsetted data matrix ('Data1'), if you click on **Edit** > **Properties...**, you will see that this new sheet now only has 105 variables ('Number of rows:').

To change the name of the data sheet, click, hover and click again on the name 'Data1' in the Explorer tree window (*or* click **File** > **Rename Data** *or* hit the 'F2' key) and type in a new name for the subsetted data sheet: Molluscs.



At this point, you might like to save your workspace. Click **File** > **Save Workspace As...** > (Filename: NZ_holdfast_molluscs.pwk).

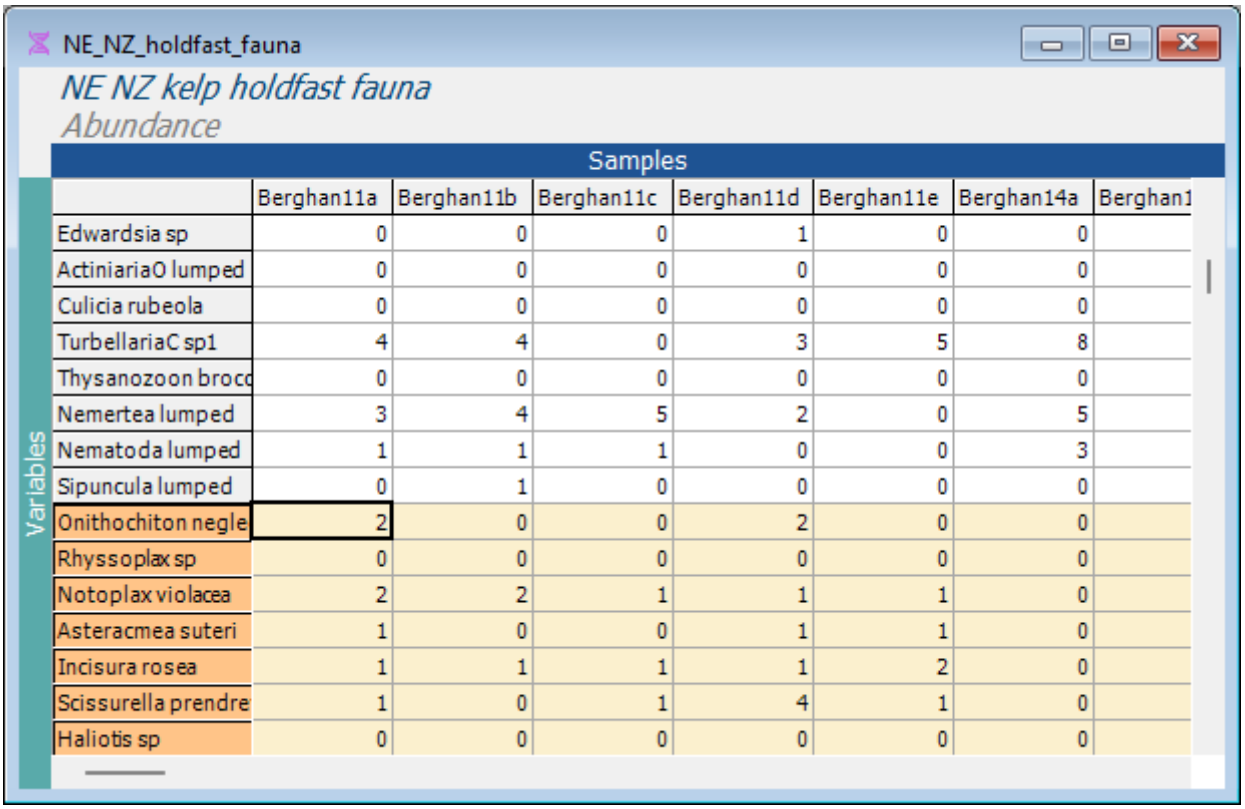
¶ *An aside: Note that whenever you have selected a subset of data (this might be a subset of variables, as done here, or a subset of samples, or both), then the original data matrix on which the operation has been done will have a blue background colour to indicate that you have done this, like so:*



	Berghan11a	Berghan11b	Berghan11c	Berghan11d	Berghan11e	Berghan14a	Berghan1
Onithochiton negle	2	0	0	2	0	0	
Rhyssoplax sp	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Notoplax violacea	2	2	1	1	1	0	
Asteracmea suteri	1	0	0	1	1	0	
Incisura rosea	1	1	1	1	2	0	
Scissurella prendre	1	0	1	4	1	0	
Haliotis sp	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Emarginula striatula	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tugali suteri	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cantharidus purpur	0	0	2	0	1	0	
Herpetopoma bella	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Herpetopoma laroc	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Liotella polypleura	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trochus viridus	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trochus sp	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Any analyses done on a selected subset of data will only be performed on that subset. It is usually a good idea to duplicate and rename a selected subset of data, so as to keep any analysis done on that subset of data clear and separate from the (full) original dataset. To duplicate an item in the Explorer tree, click Tools > Duplicate. To rename the duplicated item, hit F2 (or click File > Rename Data).

Note that subsetting does not affect the original full data matrix of information in any way, which is still always there. You can clear any subset selection (of variables and/or samples) by clicking on Select > All to return to the full data matrix in its entirety. The blue background colour will go away when you do that, and the formerly selected data will yet be highlighted in yellow-orange hues.



	Berghan11a	Berghan11b	Berghan11c	Berghan11d	Berghan11e	Berghan14a	Berghan1
Edwardsia sp	0	0	0	1	0	0	
ActiniariaO lumped	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Culicia rubeola	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TurbellariaC sp1	4	4	0	3	5	8	
Thysanozoon brocc	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nemertea lumped	3	4	5	2	0	5	
Nematoda lumped	1	1	1	0	0	3	
Sipuncula lumped	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Onithochiton negle	2	0	0	2	0	0	
Rhyssoplax sp	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Notoplax violacea	2	2	1	1	1	0	
Asteracmea suteri	1	0	0	1	1	0	
Incisura rosea	1	1	1	1	2	0	
Scissurella prendre	1	0	1	4	1	0	
Haliotis sp	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Clicking on Select > Highlighted can then be used to re-instate the selection from before, if desired.

Revision #23
Created 4 March 2025 22:01:32 by Abby Miller
Updated 24 March 2026 22:25:18 by Marti