

# Average body mass matrix (B/A)

A useful variation of this, but one which needs more care, is to compute average body mass of each species in each sample. This is simply  $B/A$ , but needs to cater for the many cases when  $A$  (and  $B$ ) are zero and a simple ratio is undefined. With active sheet **Clyde macrofauna counts**, so that  $V$  is again the counts, **Pre-treatment>Transform(individual)>Expression: Work("Clyde macrofauna biomass")/(V - (V=0))** will do the trick, because when  $V > 0$  the expression  $(V=0)$  gives the value 0 (false), so that the correct ratio of  $B/A$  is calculated. However, when  $V=0$  the expression  $(V=0)$  returns the value -1 (true). The bottom line is then 1 and the result of the ratio is a reasonable value of 0. This assumes that  $B=0$  when  $A=0$  of course! [This, incidentally, is something that can be checked by running Abundance-Biomass Comparison curves, described in Section 16, since the **Analyse>Dominance Plot** (ABC) routine explicitly checks for incorrect matrix entries which have  $A=0$  but  $B > 0$ ; the converse is perfectly permissible - the weight of all organisms of a species in a sample might be too small to register - but this does not cause a problem with a  $B/A$  calculation).]

An illustration of error trapping and relaxation of strict matching, in **Pre-treatment>Transform(individual)** with matching of entries, is obtained by copying **Clyde macrofauna biomass** with **Tools>Duplicate**, then **Edit>Labels>Variables** on this to delete all the species labels (click the Label header and hit the delete key or **Edit>Delete**). A sheet cannot function without labels so PRIMER substitutes its own defaults of (V1), (V2), etc. Now run the above calculation on **Clyde macrofauna counts**, but with the relabelled biomass sheet (**Data10** below) replacing the original biomass sheet. A warning message says that it could not find (variable) labels to match, but the two matrices are the same size so the option is given of proceeding anyway, on the assumption that the species order matches. We know it does here, so continue, to give the desired  $B/A$  matrix, and the original species labels will be present in the resulting new sheet because these are always taken from the active matrix, in a case such as this. Re-run having deselected one of the rows in **Data10**, however, and an irrecoverable error message occurs - a match is impossible because the variable labels do not match and neither does the number of variables in the  $A$  and  $B$  matrices.

Labels

Edit Fill

Cut Ctrl+X

Copy Ctrl+C

Paste Ctrl+V

Delete Del

OK

Abra sp.

Amaeana tril

Ampharete g

PRIMER

Delete data values?

OK

Data10

*Clyde macrofauna biomass (Biomass)*

		Samples - Sites along transect							
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
Variables - Species	(V16)	0	0	128	0	0	0	0	0
	(V17)	0	0	0	1	59	3	12	6
	(V18)	0	0	0	7	17	0	3	7
	(V19)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

TRANSFORM

Selected data taken. Only highlighted data transformed.

Expression:

WORK("Data10")/(V-(V=0))

Pick

Type

Cell value

Function

Sample

Variable

Formula

Include

Exclude

Work

Item:

Clyde environment

Clyde log abiotic

Clyde macrofauna biomass

Data1

Data10

Data2

PRIMER

Some labels not matched  
Matching to worksheet: 'Data10'

Skip matching and take same order as worksheet selections?

OK

Cancel

Data11

*Clyde macrofauna - average body mass of an individual (B/A)*

*Abundance*

		Samples - Sites along transect											
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	S11	S12
Variables - Species	Calocaris macandrei	0	0	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	0
	Capitella capitata	0	0	0	0.5	0.80	0.75	0.56	0.18	0	0	0	0
	Caulleriella sp.	0	0	0	0.29	1.04	0	0.75	0.46	0	0	0	0
	Chaetoderma sp.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
	Chaetozone setosa	0	2	0.55	0.30	0	0	0	0	0.11	0.35	1	9
	Cirratulidae	0	0.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
	Cirratulus cirratus	0	0	2.33	2	2.42	0	7.42	0	0.25	2.18	0	0

PRIMER

Some labels not matched  
Cannot match labels, even relaxed  
Matching to worksheet: 'Data10'

OK

Revision #4

Created 26 September 2024 03:21:52 by Arden

Updated 11 February 2025 22:39:52 by Abby Miller