Appendix S4: *Installation on Linux systems*

The following text is intended only for Linux users that want things complicated but native. First, download the required software to reproduce this guide, which includes MariaDB (https://mariadb.org/), MySQL Workbench (https://dev.mysql.com/downloads/workbench/) and R (https://cran.r-project.org/) with the following packages: shinydashboard, RMySQL, shiny, tidyr, dplyr, reshape2, DT, shinyBS, dqshiny (not yet in CRAN, visit https://github.com/daqana/dqshiny for installation instructions), shinyjs, rjson, stringr, readr, readxl, readODS, ggplot2, plotly, cowplot, schoolmath, forcats and leaflet. For a better functioning of the GUI, it is highly recommended installing Shiny Server (https://www.rstudio.com/products/shiny/download-server/).

After installing MariaDB, and before using the provided R scripts, it is important to mention that some manual intervention is needed:

1. Run the script named "Ecology_lab.sql" directly in the MySQL console or through MySQL Workbench. This will create an almost empty database.
2. Clone the GIT repository (https://github.com/juanalberti/ecological_db_shiny.git) or download the scripts from https://github.com/juanalberti/ecological_db_shiny.
3. Set your MySQL user, password and connection (defined on step 1) on the connection script (connection.R; line 2). They are needed to connect to the database.
4. Edit "/etc/shiny-server/shiny-server.conf" and point to the root folder where you saved the scripts (step 2), on the line starting with "site_dir".