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Urban ponds as an aquatic biodiversity resource in modified landscapes

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Urban ponds as an aquatic biodiversity resource in modified landscapes

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Abstract

Urbanization is a global process contributing to the loss and fragmentation of natural habitats. Many studies have focused on the biological response of terrestrial taxa and habitats to urbanization. However, little is known regarding the consequences of urbanization on freshwater habitats, especially small lentic systems. In this study we examined aquatic macroinvertebrate diversity (family and species level) and variation in community composition between 240 urban and 782 non-urban ponds distributed across the UK. Contrary to predictions, urban ponds supported similar numbers of invertebrate species and families compared to non-urban ponds. Similar gamma diversity was found between the two groups at both family and species taxonomic levels. The biological communities of urban ponds were markedly different to those of non-urban ponds and the variability in urban pond community composition was greater than that in non-urban ponds, contrary to previous work showing homogenisation of communities in urban areas. Positive spatial autocorrelation was recorded for urban and non-urban ponds at 0-50 km (distance between pond study sites) and negative spatial autocorrelation was observed at 100-150 km, and was stronger in urban ponds in both cases. Ponds do not follow the same ecological patterns as terrestrial and lotic habitats (reduced taxonomic richness) in urban environments; in contrast they support high taxonomic richness and contribute significantly to regional faunal diversity. Individual cities are complex structural mosaics which evolve over long periods of time and are managed in diverse ways, promoting the development of a wide-range of environmental conditions and habitat niches in urban ponds which can promote greater heterogeneity between pond communities at larger scales. Ponds provide an opportunity for managers and environmental regulators to conserve and enhance freshwater biodiversity in

49 urbanized landscapes whilst also facilitating key ecosystem services including storm water
50 storage and water treatment.

Introduction

Land use change has been predicted to be the greatest driver of biodiversity change in the 21st century (Sala *et al.*, 2000). The conversion of natural landscapes to urban areas represents a common land use transition, and is a significant process contributing to the loss of freshwater habitats and the degradation of those that remain, placing considerable pressure on native flora and fauna (McKinney, 2002). The fragmentation of natural habitats and development of uniform landscapes in urban areas has been demonstrated to cause the biotic homogenization of flora and fauna through the decline and exclusion of native species by land use modification (and associated anthropogenic pressures) and the establishment and spread of non-native invasive species through habitat disturbance and human introductions (McKinney, 2006; Grimm *et al.*, 2008; Shochat *et al.*, 2010). Previous research has demonstrated that high levels of urbanization reduce macroinvertebrate and macrophyte species richness (e.g. in urban streams, Roy *et al.*, 2003; Walsh *et al.*, 2005) to the point where urban environments are viewed as ‘ecological deserts’; although at moderate levels of urbanization greater diversity has been recorded for plant communities (McKinney *et al.*, 2008). In recent decades, significant improvements to the physical, chemical and ecological quality of urban freshwater ecosystems have been made in economically developed nations reflecting the decline in industrial developments, improved waste water treatment, and more effective environmental legislation (e.g., *The Water Framework Directive* in Europe; EC, 2000 and *The Water Act 2007* in Australia; Commonwealth of Australia, 2007). Although there have been significant improvements to the quality of many urban aquatic habitats, the number of water bodies in urban areas has declined over the past century (Wood *et al.*, 2003; Vaughan & Ormerod, 2012; Thornhill, 2013). Commercial and residential developments are expanding in urban areas to keep pace with population growth (66%

of global urban population are predicted to live in urban areas by 2050; United Nations, 2014) at the expense of urban green spaces (Dallimer *et al.*, 2011). Such losses of green/blue space are likely to place significant pressure on remaining urban freshwaters to support native flora and fauna and may lead to substantial shifts in the diversity and composition of species in urban areas (Fitzhugh & Richter, 2004; McKinney, 2006).

Ponds are ubiquitous habitat features in both urban and non-urban landscapes. In non-urban landscapes ponds have been demonstrated to support greater regional diversity of flora and fauna compared to rivers and lakes (Davies *et al.*, 2008). This biodiversity value may result from spatial and temporal diversity in pond environmental variables (Hassall *et al.*, 2011; Hassall *et al.*, 2012), which create a highly heterogeneous “pondscape” of habitats that provide a diverse array of ecological niches. Ponds have been acknowledged as providing important network connectivity across landscapes, acting as “stepping stones” that facilitate dispersal (Pereira *et al.*, 2011). Within urban areas, ponds provide a diverse array of habitats and occur in a wide range of forms including garden ponds (Hill & Wood, 2014), sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS; Briers, 2014; Hassall & Anderson, 2015), industrial, ornamental and park ponds (Gledhill *et al.*, 2008; Hill *et al.*, 2015), recreation and angling ponds (Wood *et al.*, 2001), and nature reserve ponds (Hassall, 2014) which typically display heterogeneous physicochemical conditions (Hill *et al.*, 2015). Urban ponds are almost always of anthropogenic origin and often demonstrate different environmental characteristics to non-urban (semi-natural/agricultural) ponds; urban ponds commonly have concrete margins, a synthetic base, reduced vegetation cover, lower connectivity to other waterbodies, and are subject to run off from residential and industrial developments which can greatly increase the concentration of contaminants (Hassall, 2014).

While the definition of a “pond” versus a “lake” is still very much debated, a general rule is that ponds are standing water bodies <2ha in size. Urban waterbodies are frequently much smaller (closer to 1-5m² for garden ponds) but show a large variation in size (>10ha for park lakes). For a discussion of the definitions of ponds and lakes, we refer the reader elsewhere (Hassall, 2014; Appendix 1 in Biggs *et al.*, 2005). Despite the considerable anthropogenic pressures on urban ponds, recent studies have demonstrated that ponds located within an urban matrix can provide important habitats for a wide range of taxa including macroinvertebrates (Hassall, 2014; Goertzen & Suhling, 2015; Hill *et al.*, 2015) and amphibians (Hamer *et al.*, 2012). In addition, many support comparable diversity to surrounding non-urban ponds (Hassall & Anderson, 2015) and also provide a wide range of ecosystem services in urban areas to offset the negative impacts of urbanization (Hassall, 2014). However, these patterns are inconsistent, and other studies have reported a lower diversity of macroinvertebrate and floral taxa in urban ponds reflecting the greater isolation of pond habitats (Hitchings & Beebee, 1997) and management practices designed for purposes other than biodiversity (e.g., emergent vegetation removal, Noble & Hassall, 2014).

While there has been increasing research interest in the biodiversity and ecosystem services of urban ponds across Europe (Hassall, 2014; Jeanmougin *et al.*, 2014; Goertzen & Suhling, 2015), the question remains as to whether urban ponds can provide similar levels of biodiversity to that recorded in ponds in the wider landscape. Few studies have compared urban pond faunal communities with non-urban pond communities (see Hassall & Anderson, 2015) and no known studies have examined urban pond macroinvertebrate diversity at a national scale. Furthermore, there are a series of ecological patterns within cities (e.g., reduced taxonomic diversity, biotic

homogenization, increase in non-native and invasive taxa) that have been described in terrestrial systems (particularly birds, butterflies, and plants: McKinney, 2008) but these have not been tested in aquatic ecosystems. This study provides a comparative analysis of environmental characteristics and macroinvertebrate communities contained within >1000 UK ponds, including ponds located in a number of cities and towns across the UK and non-urban ponds that cover a wide range of non-urban habitats including; nature reserves, agricultural land (pasture and crop), meadows, woodland and other wetlands. We test the following hypotheses (i) urban ponds support lower macroinvertebrate richness and diversity (family and species level) than non-urban ponds, as would be predicted from the greater anthropogenic stressors in urban areas; (ii) urban macroinvertebrate communities would be more homogeneous than non-urban communities at a family and species scale, due to the greater similarity of urban habitats as has been reported for terrestrial taxa; and (iii) urban pond communities demonstrate stronger spatial structuring at smaller scales than non-urban communities, through reduced connectivity, dispersal and gene flow.

Materials and Methods

Data Management

The UK covers a total area of 242,495 km² and has a population of approximately 64.6 million inhabitants. Over 6.8% of the UK land mass is classified as urban and approximately 80% of the population resides in urban areas (defined as areas >20ha containing >20,000 people, UKNEA, 2011). Aquatic macroinvertebrate community data from 230 urban and 607 non-urban ponds and environmental data from 240 urban ponds and 782 non-urban ponds in the UK were collated

142 from 12 previous studies (Table 1). The spatial distribution of the studied urban and non-urban
143 ponds is displayed in Figure 1.

144

145 Data collection methodologies employed by the majority of contributing studies (Table 1)
146 broadly followed the standardized guidelines of the National Pond Survey (Biggs *et al.*, 1998)
147 including a 3 minute sweep sample divided between the mesohabitats present (Studies 1, 2, 3, 4,
148 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12; Table 1). The other studies also sampled for aquatic macroinvertebrate
149 taxa in all available mesohabitats, but sampling was undertaken until no new species were
150 recorded (studies 7 and 8). The majority of studies were sampled across two or three seasons
151 (studies 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11; Table 1) although five studies were only sampled during the
152 summer months (studies 2, 5, 8, 9 and 12; Table 1). Environmental data recorded from pond sites
153 varied between studies, but always included a common core of variables that were used in the
154 comparative analysis: pond area, pH, percentage coverage of emergent macrophytes, percentage
155 pond shading, and altitude. Ponds were categorized as urban or non-urban based on whether they
156 were located within developed land use areas (DLUAs) – a landscape designation used by the
157 UK-based Ordnance Survey to delineate urban and non-urban sites. We provide a comparison
158 between our binary categorisation and two other measures of ‘urbanness’ (proportion of urban
159 land use in a 1km buffer, and distance from urban land use areas) in the Supplementary
160 Information (Part 1). We acknowledge that the definition of an urban pond is complex. Indeed, a
161 previous attempt to define a typology of urban ponds concluded that these sites comprise a
162 diverse array of different habitat types (Hassall, 2014). However, the intention with this study is
163 to evaluate the aquatic biodiversity in urban areas, and to establish whether those urban sites are
164 deserving of protection, value, and enhancement. Hence, rather than attempting to define the
165 precise characteristics of an “urban pond”, we are focusing on the much more tractable issue of
166 “ponds in urban areas”. Similarly, the definition of a “non-urban pond” for our purposes simply

includes ponds outside of urban areas. Our non-urban pond dataset is concentrated in agricultural landscapes which in the UK are typically characterised by low tree cover and low surrounding botanical diversity, along with high inputs of nutrients and agricultural effluents. These ponds are likely to be subject to “benign neglect” (i.e. limited management) but this will vary across the ponds in the study. Urban ponds in this study encompass a broad spectrum of urban areas, from their location in densely populated cities (e.g., Birmingham: population >1million) to smaller towns (e.g., Loughborough: estimated population of 60000). The urban ponds chosen for investigation included ponds in domestic gardens, industrial ponds (old mill ponds), ornamental ponds located in urban parks and drainage ponds (e.g., sustainable urban drainage systems / stormwater retention ponds; see Hassall, 2014). The issue of the representative nature of UK cities compared to cities elsewhere (in Europe or the wider world) is less clear for ponds, since there has been limited study of these habitats using standardised methods (see Hassall, 2014, for a discussion and a range of biodiversity studies). It is likely that the range of urbanised areas incorporated in our study covers the range of different urban landscapes that are found in European cities, from millennia-old cities with an evolving land use pattern (e.g. London), to centuries-old industrial towns (e.g. Leeds, Manchester), to 20th century towns which have been designed and built *de novo* (e.g. Milton Keynes).

The faunal dataset was converted into a presence-absence matrix to ensure data provided by the 12 constituent studies were comparable and that any sampling bias was reduced. Abundance data may yield additional insights into variation in biomass and evenness among ponds, and we might expect greater biomass and evenness in non-urban sites where stressors are reduced and nutrient supply is greater. However, our primary goal within the present study is to investigate variation

in taxonomic richness across the pond types. Two key methodological differences exist in the 12 studies. First, although most of the corresponding studies identified the majority of macroinvertebrate taxa to species level, each study also identified selected taxa (e.g., Diptera, Oligochaeta, Copepoda and Ostracoda) at higher taxonomic levels (Table 1). The influence of a higher taxonomic resolution of identification for aquatic macroinvertebrates has been examined, primarily within lotic habitats (Monk *et al.*, 2012; Heino, 2014). However, identification of macroinvertebrate taxa at family level has been shown to be appropriate to examine alpha, beta and gamma diversity in lentic systems (Le Viol *et al.*, 2009; Mueller *et al.*, 2013; Hassall & Anderson, 2015; Vilmi *et al.*, 2016) and is the resolution used by a range of environmental monitoring indices (e.g., biological monitoring working party [BMWP] and predictive system for multimetrics [PSYM] scores; Environment Agency & Pond Conservation Trust, 2002) and legislation (e.g., The Water Framework Directive; EC, 2000) across Europe. However, to assess the sensitivity of results to taxonomic resolution we performed all analyses at two taxonomic levels: first, to incorporate as many sites as possible and to ensure faunal data was comparable across all studies, aquatic macroinvertebrate data were reclassified to family level and analysis was undertaken at this higher taxonomic resolution. Second, statistical analysis was also undertaken on a subset of urban (207 ponds) and non-urban ponds (578 ponds) where species level data was available.

The second methodological variation was in the amount of sampling effort applied to the sites: sampling effort was limited to 3 minutes in 10 of the studies (following standard UK sampling protocols) but two studies used exhaustive sampling until no more species were found. A preliminary analysis showed that, in fact, the sites sampled for 3 minutes found more taxa

(average of 14.7 ± 0.4 SE families, $n=392$ sites; average of 30.0 ± 0.9 species, $n=340$) than sites sampled exhaustively (average of 13.6 ± 0.3 SE families, $n=518$ sites; average of 26.8 ± 0.6 species, $n=518$). However, this lower number of species in exhaustive samples is likely to result from those sites occurring in the north of England where the regional species pool may be smaller. As a result, we find no evidence of bias between the exhaustive and time-limited samples. Finally, to provide the strongest possible test of the biodiversity value of urban ponds, urban pond communities (at a family and species level) were compared to a subset of the non-urban ponds with degraded sites excluded (leaving $n=571$ non-urban ponds with family level data and 542 with species level data).

Statistical Analysis

Differences in environmental characteristics (pond area, percentage coverage of emergent macrophytes, pH, percentage pond shading and altitude) and aquatic macroinvertebrate communities at a family and species level between urban and non-urban ponds were examined. All analyses were carried out in the R environment (R Development Core Team, 2013). Prior to statistical analysis the data was screened to remove any missing values. Estimated gamma diversity was calculated using Chao2 estimator in the vegan package in R (Oksanen *et al.*, 2015). Mann-Whitney U tests were used to test for differences in alpha diversity (family and species richness) between urban and non-urban ponds. To account for the fact that there were different numbers of urban and non-urban sites, taxon accumulation curves were constructed by randomized resampling of sites without replacement using the *specaccum* function in vegan with 1,000 permutations per sample size. From these curves the mean number of families and species in each simulated group of sites and the standard error were calculated. Variability between

urban and non-urban ponds in the environmental variables was tested using Mann-Whitney U tests. Differences between environmental variables and faunal community composition in urban and non-urban ponds were visualized using Non-Metric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) with the *metaMDS* function in the *vegan* package and were examined statistically using a ‘Permutational Analysis of Variance’ (PERMANOVA). Bray–Curtis dissimilarity was used to analyse the macroinvertebrate data and Euclidean distance used for the environmental data. Homogeneity of multivariate dispersions between the environmental data and macroinvertebrate communities from urban and non-urban ponds were calculated using the *betadisper* function in *vegan* and compared using an ANOVA. To identify indicator taxa of ephemeral and perennial ponds Indicator Value analysis (IndVal: Dufrêne & Legendre 1997) was undertaken. To test the spatial patterns of community structure in urban and non-urban ponds, a Mantel correlogram was constructed between the aquatic macroinvertebrate distance matrix (Euclidean) and the geographical distance for urban and non-urban ponds using the *mantel.correlog* function in the *vegan* package in R. Breaks among distance classes in the Mantel correlogram were defined in 50km intervals. The Mantel correlogram enables the identification of changes in the strength of correlation between faunal distance matrices and geographic distance matrices at different spatial scales (Rangel *et al.*, 2010).

The relationship between macroinvertebrate assemblages and environmental variables (pH, percentage coverage of emergent macrophytes, percentage pond shading, altitude, location within urban area, and pond area) was examined using redundancy analysis (RDA) in the *vegan* package. A stepwise selection procedure (forward and backward selection) was employed to select the best model and environmental variables that significantly ($p < 0.05$) explained the

variance in pond macroinvertebrate assemblages using the *ordistep* function in *vegan*, which uses permutation-based significance tests (999 permutations).

Results

Urban and non-urban pond environmental characteristics

Comparisons between specific environmental variables in urban and non-urban ponds that are thought to influence diversity and composition showed that altitude ($W=108179.5$ $p<0.01$; Figure 2A) and pond shading ($W=92965.5$ $p<0.01$; Figure 2B) were significantly higher for urban ponds (mean altitude: 85.9 ± 3.7 masl; mean shading 22.89 ± 1.84 %) than non-urban ponds (mean altitude: 78.2 ± 2.8 masl; mean shading 19.61 ± 0.95 %), but the absolute differences between the pond types are small enough that they may be biologically insignificant . pH was significantly higher for urban ponds (mean $7.44 \pm 0.06SE$) compared to non-urban ponds (7.37 ± 0.16 ; $W=37024$ $p<0.05$; Figure 2C) although in both pond types pH was close to neutral. Non-urban ponds demonstrated a greater variability in pH compared to urban ponds. A total of 13% of non-urban ponds (66 ponds) recorded a pH <6.5 , whilst only 4% of urban ponds (10 urban ponds) recorded a pH <6.5 . In addition, pond area was on average 43% larger in non-urban ponds ($2207 \pm 139m^2$) compared to urban ponds ($1546 \pm 171m^2$; $W=75154.5$ $p<0.01$; Figure 2D). Emergent macrophyte coverage was significantly higher in non-urban ponds ($33.10 \pm 1.08\%$) compared to urban ponds ($27.77 \pm 1.87\%$; $W=81695$ $p<0.01$; Figure 2E) although the mean difference was $<5\%$.

Aquatic macroinvertebrate diversity

Family-level gamma diversity was similar between urban (observed 96 families, Figure 3A) and non-urban ponds (observed 103 families, Figure 3B), and the Chao2 estimator produced results taking into account sample size that were not statistically different across the two pond types (urban: 108.2, 95% CI: 91.4-125.0 families; non-urban: 107.5, 95% CI: 99.7-115.3 families). At an alpha scale urban ponds (median richness = 13, range = 2-44) supported significantly greater macroinvertebrate family richness compared to non-urban ponds (median richness = 12, range = 2-38; $W=20430.5$ $p<0.01$) although median richness values were very similar between the pond types. Species-level gamma diversity was lower in urban (observed 403 species) than non-urban sites (observed 473 species), but the Chao2 estimator showed that there was no significant difference after controlling for the number of sites (urban: 496.6, 95%CI: 445.6-547.7 species; non-urban: 572.9, 95%CI: 520.2-625.7 species). No significant difference in alpha diversity between macroinvertebrate species was recorded between urban (median: 28) and non-urban ponds (median 26; $W=17310$ $p=0.507$).

Urban ponds demonstrated a greater variability in alpha diversity among individual ponds at a family and species level (Figure 3C, 3D). A total of 25 urban ponds (11% of total urban pond number) supported >25 macroinvertebrate families, whilst only 9 non-urban ponds (1.5% of total non-urban pond number) supported macroinvertebrate communities with >25 families. In addition, the greatest number of invertebrate families recorded was from an urban pond (46 taxa) and 5 of the 6 ponds with the greatest macroinvertebrate family richness were located in urban environments. Only two families of macroinvertebrates were statistically associated with non-urban ponds (one family of Plecoptera, one family of Ephemeroptera), while 20 families were identified as indicator taxa for urban ponds, including seven families of Diptera. Strongest associations for families are

presented in Table 2 (see Supplementary Material Table S10 for the full list of statistically significant family indicator values, and Supplementary Table S11 for significant indicator values of macroinvertebrate species).

When non-urban ponds designated as degraded were removed and the macroinvertebrate diversity in the remaining ponds was compared to urban ponds, alpha diversity was significantly greater in urban ponds (median: 13; $W=18057$ $p<0.01$) than the higher quality non-urban ponds (median: 12) at a family level, although mean and median richness values were similar between the pond types (see Supplementary Information Part 2). There was no significant difference in alpha diversity ($W=14653.5$ $p=0.358$) at the species level between urban ponds (median: 28) and higher quality non-urban ponds (median: 25). Estimated gamma diversity for higher quality non-urban ponds at a family (98.7) and species scale (575.1) was marginally higher compared to gamma diversity when all non-urban ponds were considered.

Chironomidae, Tipulidae, Crangonyctidae and Oligochaeta had a greater frequency of occurrence in urban ponds, whilst Gyrinidae, Hydrophilidae and Notonectidae displayed a greater occurrence in non-urban ponds (Figure 4; for complete data see Tables S8 and S9 for family and species level prevalence, respectively). Macroinvertebrate families that score highly within biological monitoring surveys of ponds and other waterbodies (e.g., PSYM and BMWP) such as Phryganeidae, Leptoceridae, Libellulidae and Aeshnidae occurred at similar frequencies in the urban and non-urban ponds (Figure 4). Crangonyctidae were present in 49.0% of urban ponds and only 29.0% of non-urban ponds. All specimens of this family from the species-level dataset were the North American invasive *Crangonyx pseudogracilis*. A similar pattern is also

seen in the species-level dataset with the invasive New Zealand mud snail, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, being found in 21.3% of urban ponds and 9.5% of non-urban ponds.

Community Heterogeneity

Multivariate dispersion for environmental characteristics were significantly lower in non-urban ponds (median distance: 1116) than urban ponds (median distance: 1978; $F=5.774$ $p<0.05$, Figure 5A). PERMANOVA showed that there was a small but significant difference between environmental characteristics ($R^2=0.03$ $p<0.001$) and faunal communities at a family ($R^2=0.09$ $p<0.001$) and species level ($R^2=0.03$ $p<0.001$). A relatively clear distinction between aquatic macroinvertebrate community composition in urban and non-urban ponds was observed at the family and species level within the NMDS ordination (Figure 5B, C). Among faunal communities, multivariate dispersion was significantly higher at the family (median distance - urban: 0.451, non-urban: 0.406; $F=27.584$ $p<0.01$) and species scale (median distance - urban: 0.579, non-urban: 0.550; $F=17.626$ $p<0.01$) for urban ponds compared to non-urban ponds.

There was significant positive spatial autocorrelation for urban ($r=0.31$ $p<0.01$) and non-urban ponds ($r=0.17$ $p<0.01$) at the family level for the smallest distance class (0-50 km), indicating that those ponds in close geographical proximity have similar macroinvertebrate community compositions (Figure 6A). At middle distance classes (distance class three: 100-150 km) urban and non-urban ponds demonstrated a significant negative Mantel spatial autocorrelation, although this effect was weak for non-urban ponds (urban: $r=-0.18$ $p<0.01$, non-urban: $r=-0.05$ $p<0.01$) (Figure 6A). At larger distances spatial autocorrelation declined in strength for urban and non-urban ponds. The same analyses carried out on species-level data showed similar spatial

patterns, but with stronger positive correlation at shorter distances (0-50km, urban: $r=0.45$, $p<0.01$; non-urban: $r=0.27$, $p<0.01$) and stronger negative correlation at middle distances (100-150km, urban: $r=-0.29$, $p<0.01$; non-urban: $r=-0.08$, $p<0.01$; Figure 6B).

Macroinvertebrate - environment relationships

Redundancy Analysis (RDA) of the pond macroinvertebrate family community data and environmental parameters highlighted clear differences between urban and non-urban ponds (Figure 7A). The RDA axes were highly significant ($F=3.06$ $p<0.001$, Adjusted $R^2=0.02$), explaining 3.8% of the variation in family assemblage on all constrained axes (see Supplementary Information Table S4). Stepwise selection of environmental parameters identified four significant physicochemical variables correlated with the first two RDA axes: altitude, emergent macrophytes (all $p<0.05$), surface area and location within urban area (both $p<0.01$) (Figure 7A). RDA indicated that urban and non-urban pond invertebrate communities were separated on the first and second axes along gradients associated with pond surface area and emergent macrophyte cover/their location within the urban landscape (Figure 7A). Non-urban ponds were characterized by a greater pond area and emergent macrophyte cover, whilst urban ponds were associated with smaller surface areas and less emergent macrophytes (Figure 7). RDA of pond macroinvertebrate species community data showed similar patterns: urban and non-urban ponds were strongly separated along the first RDA axis, with significant effects of urbanisation, pond area, altitude, and shading on community structure (Figure 7B). However, in both RDA analyses the explanatory power of the models was very low (see Supplementary Information Table S4).

Discussion

Urban freshwater diversity

This is the first study to provide a large scale, inter-city approach to test the biological response of entire pond macroinvertebrate communities to urbanization. The results provide a contrast with previous work on terrestrial and lotic habitats which has shown greater fragmentation, reduction in habitat quality (e.g., pollution/contaminant build up), alterations to biogeochemical cycles, higher air surface temperatures, increased disturbance frequencies, proliferation of non-native taxa, biotic homogenization and an overall decline in biological richness in urban areas (e.g., McKinney, 2002; McKinney, 2006; Grimm *et al.*, 2008). The ecological consequences of urbanization for ponds do not appear to follow the same patterns identified elsewhere for terrestrial habitats.

Urban ponds and non-urban ponds support similar alpha diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates at a family and species level (reject hypothesis 1) and estimated gamma diversity was similar at a family level, although non-urban ponds recorded higher estimated gamma diversity at a species scale. These findings are consistent with a recent study of terrestrial invertebrates that showed comparable levels of diversity of particular indicator groups inhabiting birch trees (*Betula pendula*) between urban and agricultural areas (Turrini and Knop, 2015). However, an analysis of the same dataset showed a homogenization of arboreal invertebrates within urban areas (Knop, 2016), consistent with other terrestrial ecosystem studies (McKinney, 2008) but not with our data for freshwater macroinvertebrates. The lack of agreement in ecological patterns between ponds (which, in this study, show similar patterns of diversity across urban boundaries) and lotic/terrestrial habitats (which tend to show reduced faunal richness with increasing urbanisation)

in cities may reflect the ability of pond communities to recover relatively quickly from temporary anthropogenic disturbance (Thornhill, 2013). This resilience is supported by the high dispersal abilities of many semi-aquatic invertebrates (Goertzen & Suhling, 2015). Despite commonly occurring in clusters, ponds are discrete habitats with small catchment areas (Davies *et al.*, 2008) and disturbance in one pond or its catchment has little impact on others in the network cluster, whilst a single disturbance event in, for example, a river system would impact an entire reach (Thornhill, 2013). Aside from rare taxa, there were few families that showed a different prevalence between urban and non-urban ponds, including indicator taxa with high BMWP scores (indicative of high water quality). However, there was also a higher prevalence of Oligochaeta and Chironomidae in urban ponds which is consistent with historical disturbance and subsequent recolonization by disturbance tolerant taxa, and higher prevalence of the invasive *C. pseudogracilis* and *P. antipodarum* in urban ponds supports previous findings that urban ecosystems favour the establishment of invasive species (Shochat *et al.*, 2010).

We propose two potential explanations, which are not mutually exclusive, for the similarity between urban and non-urban pond biodiversity. First, it has been estimated that 80% of ponds in the wider UK landscape are in a degraded state (Williams *et al.*, 2010). Hence non-urban ponds and urban ponds may be suffering from external pressures and mismanagement leading to the similar alpha diversities recorded. With both pond types in degraded states the biodiversity value of urban ponds must be treated with caution, as their richness is compared to similar degraded non-urban ponds. However, our secondary analysis demonstrated that urban ponds still show comparable biodiversity to higher quality, non-degraded non-urban ponds. Research examining the diversity of high-quality urban and non-urban ponds is required to fully quantify the

biodiversity value of urban ponds. Second, intensive management in cities may actually promote biodiversity. Whilst many ponds in non-urban areas (e.g., agricultural land) are left unmanaged, neglected, and at late successional stages (Hassall *et al.*, 2012; Sayer *et al.*, 2012), ponds in urban areas are often managed (primarily for purposes other than biodiversity) and a wide-range of successional stages are maintained. Furthermore, in many cases local residents (e.g., pond warden schemes) monitor and manage large numbers of urban ponds for the benefit of ecological communities, improving their habitat/water quality and promoting high biological richness (Boothby, 1995; Hill *et al.*, 2015). Results from the present study show that urban areas have the potential to become reservoirs of freshwater biodiversity rather than “ecological deserts”, which incorporate a wide range of aquatic habitats including ponds, canals, urban reservoirs and wetlands (Hassall & Anderson, 2015). However, it should be noted that diversity was highly variable in this study at both the family and species level of taxonomic resolution and previous research has demonstrated that some urban ponds can be of low ecological quality if anthropogenic stressors such as eutrophication are allowed to persist (Noble & Hassall, 2014).

Urban ponds were also characterized by contrasting values of some environmental parameters to non-urban ponds. As expected, urban ponds were smaller than non-urban ponds reflecting the high level of competition and the economic value of urban land. Lower emergent macrophyte coverage was recorded in urban ponds compared to non-urban ponds which reflects their primary function for flood water storage/water treatment and the management practices undertaken to achieve this (Le Viol *et al.*, 2009). Reduced emergent macrophyte cover in urban areas may also be the result of public perceptions of pond attractiveness (clean, open water and surrounding vegetation mown; Nassauer, 2004) which pond amenity managers aim to replicate, or other

management practices for amenity purposes such as angling or boating (Wood *et al.*, 2001). Urban ponds were significantly more shaded than non-urban ponds, which is most likely the result of urban ponds location within high density, built environments providing significant additional artificial shading to that provided by trees. In addition, reduced shading of non-urban ponds may be because many non-urban ponds were located in landscapes typically free of shading (trees) including wetland meadows and the low numbers of trees in British agricultural landscapes where many non-urban ponds are situated (however high levels of pond shading from trees has been recorded in some UK agricultural areas: Sayer *et al.*, 2012).

Community heterogeneity

Small but significant differences in faunal communities (family and species) were observed between urban and non-urban ponds in this study (reject hypothesis 2). Differences (albeit subtle) in community composition found in the present study contrast with the findings of Hassall and Anderson (2015) and Le Viol *et al.* (2009) and suggest that at greater spatial scales urban ponds contribute as much to the regional biodiversity pool as non-urban ponds. The higher community dissimilarity among urban ponds may reflect the different levels of disturbance and diverse management practices (reflecting their primary function e.g., flood alleviation, biodiversity, amenity), as well as general pond characteristics such as small catchments which result in highly heterogeneous environmental conditions (greater environmental multivariate distances than non-urban ponds) even in ponds that are in close proximity (Davies *et al.*, 2008).

Significant positive spatial autocorrelation at the smallest distance class and significant negative spatial autocorrelation at medium distances suggest that: 1) ponds within individual cities have similar communities which reflect similar city-region environmental characteristics; and 2) ponds at greater spatial distances from one another in different cities have increasingly dissimilar communities reflecting the high variability in environmental (Heino & Alahuhta, 2015) and historical factors (Baselga, 2008; Heino & Alahuhta, 2015) among cities. Spatial patterns of management may influence geographical variation in community structure to a greater extent than landscape connectivity, making it difficult to evaluate our third hypothesis. However, we demonstrate stronger spatial structuring of urban communities at finer spatial scales, which would be expected under lower connectivity. Greater connectivity in non-urban landscapes enhances species movement leading to weaker spatial structuring at finer spatial scales in non-urban ponds. Hence our observations support our third hypothesis, but further work is needed to evaluate the consequences of spatial patterns for management. Historically, urban environments were highly degraded (physically, chemically and biologically) but significant improvements to urban freshwater quality have been achieved in recent decades despite urban sprawl and intensification (Vaughan & Ormerod, 2012). Therefore, it is possible that cities are still being recolonized by aquatic taxa from different regional species pools using different dispersal routes, creating a dynamic pattern of communities.

Conservation implications

Urban ponds support relatively high alpha and gamma diversity comparable to non-urban ponds. A lack of monitoring of urban freshwaters (particularly ponds that are excluded from the EU Water Framework Directive) may be hiding considerably more diversity such that urban planners

fail to identify high biodiversity sites (Hassall, 2014). There is a need for a concerted, comparative, empirical approach to freshwater management that incorporates biodiversity as well as other ecosystem services alongside social and political considerations. Fundamental to the conservation of ponds is an integrated landscape approach that recognizes the need for networks of ponds (Boothby, 1997). Hence the prioritization of ponds for conservation will need to take into account their location relative to other sites, requiring a complementary approach that creates new habitats, improves degraded habitats, and conserves those habitats that have already achieved good quality. Changes in the management of ponds more generally has led to change in the environmental conditions within and around these habitats, such as the reduction in riparian tree management around agricultural ponds which has consequences for light, oxygen, and temperature (Sayer et al., 2013). Urban ponds are well suited to biodiversity enhancement as many are sites of high diversity (Hassall, 2014) and even small changes to current management strategies in urban freshwaters (e.g., the planting of native macrophytes in amenity ponds; Hill *et al.*, 2015) are likely to significantly augment biodiversity in urban landscapes. Cities are highly complex, multifunctional landscapes designed primarily for anthropogenic use yet they still support considerable aquatic diversity and represent scientifically and ecologically important habitats.

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Table 1 – Summary table of the geographic scale, sampling methodology and taxonomic resolution of contributing studies.

Reference Number	Geographic Scale	Aquatic macroinvertebrate Sampling Methodology	Taxonomic Resolution	Taxa Included	Reference
1	UK wide n= 152	Individual ponds sampled for 3 minutes in spring, summer and autumn using a sweep sample technique. Sampling time was divided between the mesohabitats recorded in each pond.	Species, except for Oligochaeta, Diptera and small bivalves	Aquatic macroinvertebrates (water mites, zooplankton and other micro-arthropods were not included)	Biggs <i>et al.</i> , 1998
2	Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland n= 14	Individual ponds were sampled annually between 2007-2011 in the summer following the methods of the National Pond Survey.	Species, except for Oligochaeta, Ostracoda and Diptera	Aquatic macroinvertebrates	Briers, 2014
3	Leicestershire, UK n = 41	Individual ponds were sampled over spring, summer and autumn seasons. Sampling time was proportional to surface area, up to a maximum of three minutes. Sampling time designated to each pond was divided between the mesohabitats recorded.	Species, except for Diptera, Oligochaeta, Hydrachnidiae and Collembola	Aquatic macroinvertebrates (zooplankton and other micro arthropods were not included)	Hill <i>et al.</i> , 2015
4	West Yorkshire, UK n = 36	Individual ponds were sampled during the summer and autumn, following the guidelines of the National Pond Survey. In addition, soft benthic samples were taken using an Eckman Grab.	Species, except Ostracoda, Copepoda and Diptera	Aquatic macroinvertebrates	Wood <i>et al.</i> , 2001
5	Bradford, UK n = 21	Individual ponds were sampled for 3 minutes in the summer. Sampling time was divided between the mesohabitats present.	Family level	Aquatic macroinvertebrates (presence of fish and amphibians noted)	Noble & Hassall, 2014
6	Birmingham, UK n = 30	Individual ponds were sampled for 3 minutes in the spring and summer, following the guidelines of the National Pond Survey.	Species, except Diptera, Sphaeriidae and Oligochaeta	Aquatic macroinvertebrates	Thornhill, 2013

7	Halton, UK n = 37	Individual ponds were sampled twice per year (summer and autumn) for 2 years. Samples were taken from all available mesohabitats using a standard pond net until no new species were recorded.	Species	Aquatic macroinvertebrates, Aquatic macrophytes, Amphibians	Gledhill <i>et al.</i> , 2008
8	North West England n = 425	Samples were taken from all available mesohabitats using a standard pond net until no new species were recorded. Logs and debris was lifted to look for macroinvertebrates located beneath.	Species except Diptera, and Oligochaeta which were not examined.	Aquatic macroinvertebrates, Aquatic macrophytes, Amphibians	Pond life Project, 2000
9	Leeds, UK n = 11	Individual ponds were sampled for 3 minutes in the summer. Sampling time was divided between the mesohabitats present.	Family level	Aquatic macroinvertebrates	Moyers & Hassall unpub.
10	UK wide n = 169	Individual ponds were sampled for 3 minutes in spring, summer and autumn using a sweep sample technique. Sampling time was divided between the mesohabitats recorded in each pond.	Species, except for Oligochaeta, Diptera and small bivalves	Aquatic macroinvertebrates (water mites, zooplankton and other micro-arthropods were not included)	FHT Realising Our Potential Award dataset unpub.
11	UK wide n = 76	Individual ponds sampled for 3 minutes in spring, summer and autumn using a sweep sample technique. Sampling time was divided between the mesohabitats recorded in each pond.	Species, except for Oligochaeta, Diptera and small bivalves	Aquatic macroinvertebrates (water mites, zooplankton and other micro-arthropods were not included)	FHT Temporary Ponds dataset unpub.
12	Leeds, UK n = 10	Individual ponds were sampled for 3 minutes in the summer. Sampling time was divided between the mesohabitats present.	Family level	Aquatic macroinvertebrates	Barber & Hassall unpub.

646 Table 2 - Aquatic macroinvertebrate families identified as indicator taxa for urban (top 6 out of 20) and
 647 non-urban ponds (the only two significant values) based on indicator value analysis (see text for details).
 648 * = $p < 0.05$, ** = $P < 0.01$.

Non-Urban ponds	Stat	Urban ponds	Stat
Nemouridae**	0.34	Chironomidae**	0.72
Heptageniidae*	0.20	Oligochaeta**	0.69
		Crangonyctidae**	0.63
		Sphaeriidae**	0.51
		Ceratopogonidae**	0.48
		Dixidae**	0.46

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Figure legends

Figure 1 - Map of Great Britain showing the locations of the surveyed urban (light grey circles) and non-urban (dark grey circles) ponds.

Figure 2: Comparison of environmental values between non-urban and urban ponds for (a) altitude, (b) shading, (c) pH, (d) pond area, and (e) emergent plant cover. Each dot represents a site, and dots are offset to illustrate multiple sites at the same value.

Figure 3: Species accumulation curves of family richness (a) and species richness (b): grey area with black line = urban ponds, black area with white line = non-urban ponds, and median macroinvertebrate family richness (c) and species richness (d) for urban and non-urban ponds. Boxes show 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles and whiskers show 5th and 95th percentiles.

Figure 4: Prevalence of aquatic macroinvertebrate families (a) and species (b) in urban and non-urban ponds. Macroinvertebrate families listed in text are presented as grey circles and have been named (see Table S8 and Table S9 for raw data).

Figure 5: Non-metric multidimensional scaling plots of variation in (a) environmental variables, (b) aquatic macroinvertebrate families and (c) aquatic macroinvertebrate species from urban and non-urban ponds (light grey symbols = urban ponds and dark grey symbols = non-urban ponds).

Figure 6 - Mantel correlogram for presence-absence macroinvertebrate data at (a) family and (b) species level along 50 km distance intervals (distances between pond study sites). Triangles = non-urban sites, circles = urban sites. Filled symbols indicate statistically significant Mantel correlations.

Figure 7 - RDA site plots of (a) family-level and (b) species-level macroinvertebrate communities recorded from the urban and non-urban pond types studied across the UK. Only

673 significant environmental parameters are presented. Dark grey circles = urban ponds, light grey
674 circles = non-urban ponds.

Supplementary information

In this document we present additional data and analyses. **Part 1** demonstrates the differences among three different methods to describe urban ponds. **Part 2** provides the same analyses as in the main paper but for a subset of sites that exclude sites recorded as “degraded”. **Part 3** contains the tables of species prevalence across urban and non-urban ponds.

Part 1: Definitions of “urban ponds”

In the main text we characterise urban ponds as those which are located within developed urban land use areas (DLUAs), areas of urban land demarcated by the UK Ordnance Survey mapping authority. However, we acknowledge that there are alternative methods to classify urban ponds and we provide a comparison with two such measures below:

1. Distance to urban area: The distance was calculated between each pond and the nearest urban land use area, where ponds within urban land use areas were allocated a value of 0 km.
2. Urban landcover in a 1 km buffer: Each pond was buffered to a distance of 1 km (a buffer area of 3.14 km²) and the proportion of that buffer containing urban land use was calculated.

Figure S1 shows the relationship between a binary categorisation of sites (as used in the main text) and these two alternative measures of urbanness. We further define additional threshold values for “urbanness” based on the distance from urban areas and the percentage of the 1 km buffer containing urban land (Table S1). To test for the sensitivity of our findings to these different definitions of “urban”, we carried out supplementary sensitivity analysis which is presented below for alpha diversity and gamma diversity.

Figure S1: Comparison of three measures of pond classification. (A) shows the distance of each pond from the edge of a developed land use area (DLUA, see main text for details) for “urban” (light grey bar) and “non-urban” (dark grey bar) ponds as classified by their presence inside or outside of the DLUAs. (B) shows the proportion of urban land within a circular buffer of radius 1 km for the urban and non-urban ponds. Note that the urban ponds shown in (A) are all 0 km from urban land as they lie within the DLUAs.

Table S1: Threshold values for the definition of a pond as “urban”, with sample sizes of urban and non-urban pond derived for each threshold.

Assumption	Definitions of urban pond	Species		Family	
		Urban	Non-urban	Urban	Non-urban
1	Within urban land use area	574	203	607	229
2	<500m from urban land use area	448	329	503	333
3	<1000m from urban land use area	628	149	686	150
4	100% urban land cover in 1 km buffer	23	754	28	808
5	>80% urban land cover in 1 km buffer	63	714	81	755
6	>60% urban land cover in 1 km buffer	115	662	140	696
7	>40% urban land cover in 1 km buffer	186	591	230	606
8	>20% urban land cover in 1 km buffer	328	449	379	457

Alpha diversity

Methods: Mann-Whitney U tests were used to test for a difference in recorded taxon number (families and species) in urban and non-urban ponds under several definitions. Spearman rank correlations were used to test for an association between alpha diversity and (i) the distance to the nearest urban land use area, and (ii) the area of

Results: There were no significant correlations between alpha diversity at the species level and the distance to urban area ($\rho=0.053$, $p=0.138$) or the percentage of the 1 km containing urban land use area ($\rho=-0.051$, $p=0.156$), or between alpha diversity at a family level and the distance to urban area ($\rho=-0.018$, $p=0.594$) or the percentage of the 1 km containing urban land use area ($\rho=0.023$, $p=0.511$). When ponds were classified as either urban or non-urban according to the criteria in Table S1, there were only two assumptions that produced a significant difference between urban and non-urban species-level richness and both results were only marginally significant ($p>0.025$; Table S2). One of these assumption (4) resulted in only 23 urban ponds compared against 754 non-urban ponds. None of the assumptions produced a significant difference in family-level richness.

Table S2: Sensitivity analysis showing the variation in alpha diversity in ponds categorised as “urban” or “non-urban” using different thresholds (see Table S1 for definitions of the assumptions), with results of Mann-Whitney U-tests.

Taxonomic level	Assumption	Urban alpha	Non-urban alpha	<i>W</i>	<i>p</i>
Species	1	24	27	62043	0.169
	2	26	27	72544	0.709
	3	27	26	45898	0.719
	4	17	27	10996	0.028
	5	22	27	24548	0.229
	6	23	27	39495	0.520
	7	23	27	60841	0.028
	8	25	27	78276	0.133
Family	1	13	13	65476	0.196
	2	13	13	79710	0.237
	3	13	12	46680	0.075
	4	12	13	11716	0.748
	5	13	13	29253	0.521
	6	13	13	46038	0.303
	7	13	13	68562	0.717
	8	13	13	85828	0.824

Gamma diversity

Methods: Gamma diversity was calculated for ponds classified according to the criteria in Table S1 using Chao's estimator from the *specpool* function in the *vegan* (Oskanen *et al.*, 2007) package in R (R Core Team, 2015). Significant differences were evaluated using the overlap of the 95% confidence intervals associated with the estimates of taxonomic richness.

Results: There were four assumptions that led to a significant difference (lack of overlap between 95% CIs) in species-level gamma diversity: Assumption 3 suggested a higher number of taxa in urban ponds, while Assumptions 4, 5 and 6 suggested a higher number of taxa in non-urban ponds (Table S3). In each of these cases the sample with the small number of taxa also had a far smaller number of sites (<20% of the number of sites as in the other sample; see Table S1). Indeed, even though the Chao estimator nominally controls for sample size, the Chao value correlates strongly with sample size, suggesting that the only fair comparisons occur when sample sizes are more similar (Assumptions 1, 2, 7 and 8, Figure S2). A similar pattern is also seen in the family data, but only Assumption 4 produced a significant difference between the gamma diversity estimates.

Figure S2: Chao estimates ($\pm 95\%$ CI) for the different assumptions made concerning the definition of an "urban pond". Data are shown in relation to the number of sites included within each definition (see Table S1 for details) for gamma diversity at (A) species- and (B) family-level. Filled circles are urban pond samples, open circles are non-urban pond samples.

Table S3: Sensitivity analysis showing the variation in relative gamma diversity in ponds categorised as “urban” or “non-urban” using different thresholds (see Table S1 for definitions of the assumptions).

Taxonomic level	Assumption	Urban gamma	Urban SE	Non-urban gamma	Non-urban SE
Species	1	497	27	566	25
	2	616	32	524	25
	3	603	22	417	23
	4	220	17	649	29
	5	326	20	628	27
	6	421	26	630	29
	7	484	27	569	20
	8	544	26	561	24
Family	1	108	8.6	107	4.0
	2	111	5.9	120	14.7
	3	111	3.8	94	9.8
	4	60	10.1	113	1.2
	5	80	17.7	112	2.0
	6	85	18.5	112	2.5
	7	97	8.6	105	1.1
	8	107	4.6	108	3.8

Table S4 - Summary statistics for redundancy analysis of macroinvertebrate community data at (A) family-level and (B) species-level, with significant explanatory environmental parameters.

A: Eigenvalues for constrained axes in family-level RDA						
	RDA 1	RDA 2	RDA 3	RDA 4	RDA 5	RDA 6
Eigenvalues	0.198	0.056	0.033	0.018	0.015	0.006
Proportion Explained (%)	2.3	0.66	0.38	0.21	0.17	0.06
Cumulative Proportion Explained (%)	2.3	2.96	3.34	3.55	3.72	3.78
<i>Adjusted R</i> ²	0.02					
Significant Environmental Variables						
	Df	F	P			
Emergent Macrophytes	1	1.62	0.02			
Altitude	1	2.03	0.015			
Pond Area	1	2.25	0.01			
In Urban	1	9.05	0.005			

B: Eigenvalues for constrained axes in species-level RDA				
	RDA 1	RDA 2	RDA 3	RDA 4
Eigenvalues	0.250	0.128	0.076	0.064
Proportion Explained (%)	1.02	0.55	0.32	0.28
Cumulative Proportion Explained (%)	1.02	1.52	1.84	2.1
<i>Adjusted R</i> ²	0.01			
Significant Environmental Variables				
	Df	F	P	
Percentage pond shaded	1	1.37	0.04	
Area	1	1.64	0.02	
Altitude	1	2.17	0.01	
In Urban	1	3.23	0.005	

Part 2: Analysis excluding degraded ponds

As discussed in the text, this analysis follows precisely the same methods as in the main part of the study but with the exclusion of sites which were explicitly recorded as being “degraded”.

Figure S3 - Species accumulation curves of family richness (a) and species richness (b): grey area with black line = urban ponds, black area with white line = non-degraded, non-urban ponds, and median macroinvertebrate family richness (c) and species richness (d) for urban and non-degraded, non-urban ponds.

Table S5 - Homogeneity of multivariate dispersions for non-degraded, non-urban ponds at a family and species taxonomic scale.

Taxonomic scale	Median	F	p-value
Family	0.398	28.323	<0.001
Species	0.5504	17.439	<0.001

Table S6 - PERMANOVA results for urban and non-degraded, non-urban pond macroinvertebrate communities at a family and species level.

PERMANOVA	R²	p-value
Species	0.030	0.001
Family	0.039	0.001

Figure S4 - Non-Metric Multidimensional scaling plots of variation in aquatic macroinvertebrate families (A) and aquatic macroinvertebrate species (B) from urban and non-degraded, non-urban ponds (dark grey symbols = non-degraded, non-urban ponds and light grey symbols = urban ponds).

Figure S5 - Mantel correlogram for presence-absence macroinvertebrate family (A) and species (B) data along 50 km distance intervals excluding known degraded sites. Triangles = non degraded, non-urban macroinvertebrate communities, circles = urban macroinvertebrate communities. Filled symbols indicate statistically significant mantel correlations.

Table S7 – Table of summary statistics for Redundancy Analysis of macroinvertebrate family (A) and species (B) assemblage data for urban pond assemblages and non-degraded, non-urban pond assemblages (RDA axes were significant for the family ($F=3.085$ $p<0.001$) and species ($F=1.70$ $p<0.001$) models).

(A) Eigenvalues for constrained axes (Family)				
	RDA 1	RDA 2	RDA 3	RDA 4
Eigenvalues	0.21633	0.06478	0.02835	0.01456
Proportion Explained (%)	0.02647	0.00792	0.00347	0.00178
Cumulative Proportion Explained (%)	2.6	3.4	3.8	4.0
<i>Adjusted R²</i>	0.03			
Significant Environmental Variables				
	Df	F	P	
pH	1	2.58	0.005	
Area	1	2.1	0.01	
Altitude	1	1.68	0.025	
In Urban	1	8.48	0.005	
(B) Eigenvalues for constrained axes (Species)				
	RDA 1	RDA 2	RDA 3	RDA 4
Eigenvalues	0.21553	0.17987	0.07284	0.06056
Proportion Explained (%)	0.00958	0.00800	0.00324	0.00269
Cumulative Proportion Explained (%)	0.96	1.76	2.08	2.35
<i>Adjusted R²</i>	0.01			
Significant Environmental Variables				
	Df	F	P	
Emergent Plants	1	1.90	0.005	
Altitude	1	2.25	0.005	
In Urban	1	3.48	0.005

Figure S6 - RDA site plots of family (A) and species (B) macroinvertebrate communities recorded from the urban and non-degraded, non-urban pond types studied across the UK. Note - only significant environmental parameters are presented. Dark grey symbols = non-urban ponds and light grey symbols = urban ponds.

Part 3: Species and family prevalence in urban and non-urban ponds

Table S8: Occurrence of aquatic macroinvertebrate families in urban (n=304) and non-urban (n=607) ponds

Family	Non-urban occurrence	Urban occurrence	Non-urban prevalence	Urban prevalence
Acroloxidae	50	33	0.082	0.109
Aeshnidae	160	91	0.264	0.299
Ancylidae	3	1	0.005	0.003
Anthribidae	0	1	0.000	0.003
Aphelocheiridae	8	5	0.013	0.016
Araneae	22	3	0.036	0.010
Argulidae	0	2	0.000	0.007
Asellidae	376	199	0.619	0.655
Astacidae	8	2	0.013	0.007
Baetidae	333	154	0.549	0.507
Beraeidae	2	3	0.003	0.010
Bibionidae	1	0	0.002	0.000
Bithyniidae	35	30	0.058	0.099
Brachycentridae	2	0	0.003	0.000
Caenidae	71	37	0.117	0.122
Calopterygidae	2	1	0.003	0.003
Carabidae	1	2	0.002	0.007
Ceratopogonidae	1	36	0.002	0.118
Chaoboridae	0	4	0.000	0.013
Chironomidae	39	112	0.064	0.368
Chloroperlidae	1	1	0.002	0.003
Chrysomelidae	137	41	0.226	0.135
Cladocera	1	2	0.002	0.007
Coccinellidae	101	38	0.166	0.125
Coenagrionidae	319	148	0.526	0.487
Copepoda	2	3	0.003	0.010
Cordulegasteridae	0	1	0.000	0.003
Corixidae	497	224	0.819	0.737
Crambidae	83	39	0.137	0.128
Crangonyctidae	176	149	0.290	0.490
Culicidae	1	34	0.002	0.112
Curculionidae	19	3	0.031	0.010
Dendrocoelidae	6	18	0.010	0.059
Dixidae	2	35	0.003	0.115
Dryopidae	31	6	0.051	0.020
Dugesidae	49	37	0.081	0.122
Dytiscidae	559	253	0.921	0.832
Ecnomidae	6	0	0.010	0.000
Elmidae	18	9	0.030	0.030
Ephemeraidae	4	1	0.007	0.003
Erpobdellidae	174	98	0.287	0.322
Euconulidae	5	1	0.008	0.003
Ferrissidae	5	2	0.008	0.007
Gammaridae	81	62	0.133	0.204
Gastrodontidae	1	0	0.002	0.000
Gerridae	268	128	0.442	0.421
Glossiphoniidae	230	129	0.379	0.424
Glossosomatiidae	1	1	0.002	0.003
Gyrinidae	134	40	0.221	0.132

Haliplidae	258	125	0.425	0.411
Hebridae	10	0	0.016	0.000
Helodidae	0	2	0.000	0.007
Heptageniidae	12	1	0.020	0.003
Heteroceridae	5	0	0.008	0.000
Hirudidae	25	9	0.041	0.030
Hydrachnidae	2	8	0.003	0.026
Hydraenidae	148	38	0.244	0.125
Hydrobiidae	57	63	0.094	0.207
Hydrometridae	70	54	0.115	0.178
Hydrophilidae	537	206	0.885	0.678
Hydropsychidae	1	3	0.002	0.010
Hydroptilidae	8	15	0.013	0.049
Hygrobiiidae	53	18	0.087	0.059
Lepidostomatidae	3	2	0.005	0.007
Leptoceridae	93	56	0.153	0.184
Leptophlebiidae	17	13	0.028	0.043
Lestidae	47	7	0.077	0.023
Leuctridae	6	3	0.010	0.010
Libellulidae	142	60	0.234	0.197
Limacidae	14	10	0.023	0.033
Limnephilidae	320	157	0.527	0.516
Limnichidae	2	0	0.003	0.000
Lymnaeidae	342	185	0.563	0.609
Mesoveliidae	0	1	0.000	0.003
Microveliidae	36	12	0.059	0.039
Nabidae	75	58	0.124	0.191
Naucoridae	94	39	0.155	0.128
Nemouridae	57	20	0.094	0.066
Nepidae	16	29	0.026	0.095
Neuroptera	0	1	0.000	0.003
Niphargidae	2	0	0.003	0.000
Noteridae	61	51	0.100	0.168
Notonectidae	350	150	0.577	0.493
Odontoceridae	4	1	0.007	0.003
Oligochaeta	34	99	0.056	0.326
Ostracoda	2	3	0.003	0.010
Paguroidea	3	2	0.005	0.007
Phryganeidae	57	40	0.094	0.132
Physidae	56	67	0.092	0.220
Piscicolidae	16	11	0.026	0.036
Pisidiidae	142	65	0.234	0.214
Planariidae	185	81	0.305	0.266
Planorbidae	339	183	0.558	0.602
Pleidae	37	7	0.061	0.023
Polycentropodidae	46	44	0.076	0.145
Potamanthidae	6	2	0.010	0.007
Psychodidae	0	30	0.000	0.099
Psychomyiidae	7	5	0.012	0.016
Ptychopteridae	0	5	0.000	0.016
Pyrilidae	6	5	0.010	0.016
Scirtidae	74	37	0.122	0.122
Sericostomatidae	4	1	0.007	0.003
Sialidae	153	91	0.252	0.299

Simuliidae	0	5	0.000	0.016
Siphonuridae	6	3	0.010	0.010
Sphaeriidae	44	69	0.072	0.227
Stratiomyidae	0	15	0.000	0.049
Succineidae	30	7	0.049	0.023
Taeniopterygidae	8	0	0.013	0.000
Tipulidae	14	55	0.023	0.181
Tortricoidea	0	1	0.000	0.003
Unionidae	12	0	0.020	0.000
Valvatidae	19	10	0.031	0.033
Veliidae	32	19	0.053	0.063
Viviparidae	4	1	0.007	0.003

Table S9: Occurrence of aquatic macroinvertebrate species in urban (n=207) and non-urban (n=577) ponds

Species	Urban occurrence	Non-urban occurrence	Urban prevalence	Non-urban prevalence
<i>Acilius canaliculatus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Acilius sulcatus</i>	19	81	0.092	0.140
<i>Acroloxus lacustris</i>	25	54	0.121	0.094
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	37	86	0.179	0.149
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	26	47	0.126	0.081
<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	1	20	0.005	0.035
<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	6	0	0.029	0.000
<i>Agabus affinis</i>	2	11	0.010	0.019
<i>Agabus arcticus</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Agabus bipustulatus</i>	74	303	0.357	0.525
<i>Agabus chalconatus</i>	2	18	0.010	0.031
<i>Agabus congener</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Agabus conspersus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Agabus didymus</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Agabus guttatus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Agabus labiatus</i>	0	5	0.000	0.009
<i>Agabus melanarius</i>	0	10	0.000	0.017
<i>Agabus melanocornis</i>	5	10	0.024	0.017
<i>Agabus montanus</i>	1	8	0.005	0.014
<i>Agabus nebulosus</i>	21	156	0.101	0.270
<i>Agabus paludosus</i>	1	5	0.005	0.009
<i>Agabus sturmii</i>	40	163	0.193	0.282
<i>Agabus uliginosus</i>	7	13	0.034	0.023
<i>Agraylea multipunctata</i>	12	5	0.058	0.009
<i>Agraylea sexmaculata</i>	5	1	0.024	0.002
<i>Agrypnia obsoleta</i>	5	5	0.024	0.009
<i>Agrypnia pagetana</i>	4	2	0.019	0.003
<i>Agrypnia varia</i>	3	11	0.014	0.019
<i>Amphinemoura sulcicollis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Anabolia nervosa</i>	6	17	0.029	0.029
<i>Anacaena bipustulata</i>	3	19	0.014	0.033
<i>Anacaena globulus</i>	39	135	0.188	0.234
<i>Anacaena limbata</i>	68	259	0.329	0.449
<i>Anacaena lutescens</i>	28	119	0.135	0.206
<i>Anax imperator</i>	9	9	0.043	0.016
<i>Ancylus fluviatilis</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Anisosticta 19 punctata</i>	11	72	0.053	0.125
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	27	41	0.130	0.071
<i>Anisus vortex</i>	27	107	0.130	0.185
<i>Anodonta anatina</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Anodonta cygnea</i>	1	10	0.005	0.017
<i>Apatamia muliebris</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Aphelocheirus aestivalis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Aphthona nonstriata</i>	0	8	0.000	0.014
<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i>	5	9	0.024	0.016
<i>Aquarius paludum</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Arctocorisa germari</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Argyroneta aquatica</i>	2	41	0.010	0.071
<i>Armiger crista</i>	42	110	0.203	0.191
<i>Asellus aquaticus</i>	130	294	0.628	0.510
<i>Asellus meridianus</i>	16	111	0.077	0.192

<i>Athripsodes aterrimus</i>	14	47	0.068	0.081
<i>Athripsodes bilineatus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Athripsodes cinereus</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Baetis rhodani</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Baetis vernus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Bathyomphalus contortus</i>	6	53	0.029	0.092
<i>Batrachobdella paludosa</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Beraea pullata</i>	2	2	0.010	0.003
<i>Beraeodes minutus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Berosus affinis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Berosus luridus</i>	2	4	0.010	0.007
<i>Berosus signaticollis</i>	1	10	0.005	0.017
<i>Bithynia leachi</i>	2	11	0.010	0.019
<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i>	22	35	0.106	0.061
<i>Brachycentrus subnubilus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Caenis horaria</i>	24	26	0.116	0.045
<i>Caenis luctuosa</i>	9	18	0.043	0.031
<i>Caenis macrura</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Caenis rivulorum</i>	5	3	0.024	0.005
<i>Caenis robusta</i>	5	19	0.024	0.033
<i>Callicorixa praeusta</i>	29	46	0.140	0.080
<i>Callicorixa wollastoni</i>	4	3	0.019	0.005
<i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>	20	39	0.097	0.068
<i>Centropilum pennulatum</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Ceraclea fulva</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Ceraclea nigrionervosa</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Cercyon convexiusculus</i>	18	74	0.087	0.128
<i>Cercyon granarius</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Cercyon impressus</i>	0	7	0.000	0.012
<i>Cercyon marinus</i>	2	5	0.010	0.009
<i>Cercyon obsoletus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Cercyon sternalis</i>	0	4	0.000	0.007
<i>Cercyon tristis</i>	0	9	0.000	0.016
<i>Cercyon ustulatus</i>	4	24	0.019	0.042
<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>	0	4	0.000	0.007
<i>Chaetarthria seminulum</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Chaetocnema concinna</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Chalcoides aurea</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Cheumatopsyche lepida</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Chloroperla torrentium</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Chrysolina polita</i>	0	6	0.000	0.010
<i>Cloeon dipterum</i>	110	283	0.531	0.490
<i>Cloeon simile</i>	9	38	0.043	0.066
<i>Coccidula rufa</i>	11	48	0.053	0.083
<i>Coelambus confluens</i>	3	14	0.014	0.024
<i>Coelambus impressopunctatus</i>	17	76	0.082	0.132
<i>Coelambus paralellogrammus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Coelostoma orbiculare</i>	12	58	0.058	0.101
<i>Coenagrion puella pulchellum</i>	57	207	0.275	0.359
<i>Colymbetes fuscus</i>	38	207	0.184	0.359
<i>Copelatus haemorrhoidalis</i>	12	76	0.058	0.132
<i>Corixa affinis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Corixa dentipes</i>	7	10	0.034	0.017

<i>Corixa panzeri</i>	7	13	0.034	0.023
<i>Corixa punctata</i>	50	238	0.242	0.412
<i>Corixidae nymph</i>	41	1	0.198	0.002
<i>Crangonyx pseudogracilis</i>	123	190	0.594	0.329
<i>Cymatia bondsdorffi</i>	4	5	0.019	0.009
<i>Cymatia coleoprata</i>	6	13	0.029	0.023
<i>Cymbiodyta marginella</i>	18	127	0.087	0.220
<i>Cyphon coarctatus</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Cyphon hilaria</i>	11	25	0.053	0.043
<i>Cyphon padi</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Cyphon variabilis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Cyrnus flavidus</i>	7	6	0.034	0.010
<i>Cyrnus trimaculatus</i>	15	4	0.072	0.007
<i>Dendrocoelum lacteum</i>	14	8	0.068	0.014
<i>Deroceras laeve</i>	2	14	0.010	0.024
<i>Donacia marginata</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Donacia simplex</i>	5	28	0.024	0.049
<i>Donacia versicolore</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Donacia vulgaris</i>	1	13	0.005	0.023
<i>Dryops ernesti</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Dryops luridus</i>	3	20	0.014	0.035
<i>Dryops similis</i>	0	7	0.000	0.012
<i>Dryops striatellus</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Dugesia lugubris</i>	7	24	0.034	0.042
<i>Dugesia polychroa</i>	20	11	0.097	0.019
<i>Dugesia tigrina</i>	17	16	0.082	0.028
<i>Dytiscus circumcinctus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Dytiscus circumflexus</i>	0	13	0.000	0.023
<i>Dytiscus marginalis</i>	23	53	0.111	0.092
<i>Dytiscus semisulcatus</i>	2	10	0.010	0.017
<i>Ecdyonurus dispar</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Ecnomus tenellus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Elmis aenea</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	13	62	0.063	0.107
<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	23	91	0.111	0.158
<i>Enochrus affinis</i>	2	11	0.010	0.019
<i>Enochrus bicolor</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Enochrus coarctatus</i>	28	114	0.135	0.198
<i>Enochrus fuscipennis</i>	0	6	0.000	0.010
<i>Enochrus halophilus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Enochrus isotae</i>	0	5	0.000	0.009
<i>Enochrus melanocephalus</i>	1	13	0.005	0.023
<i>Enochrus nigritus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Enochrus ochropterus</i>	0	18	0.000	0.031
<i>Enochrus testaceus</i>	26	78	0.126	0.135
<i>Ephemera danica</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Ephemera vulgata</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Ephemerella ignita</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Erpobdella octoculata</i>	45	136	0.217	0.236
<i>Erpobdella testacea</i>	35	52	0.169	0.090
<i>Erythromma najas</i>	12	33	0.058	0.057
<i>Euconulus alderi</i>	1	5	0.005	0.009
<i>Ferrissia wautieri</i>	2	5	0.010	0.009
<i>Galerucella cf grisea</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003

<i>Galerucella sagittariae</i>	0	15	0.000	0.026
<i>Gammarus lacustris</i>	4	0	0.019	0.000
<i>Gammarus pulex</i>	58	69	0.280	0.120
<i>Garrmarus zaddachi</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Gastrophysa polygoni</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Gerris argentatus</i>	0	5	0.000	0.009
<i>Gerris costai</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Gerris gibbifer</i>	5	3	0.024	0.005
<i>Gerris lacustris</i>	71	191	0.343	0.331
<i>Gerris lateralis</i>	0	4	0.000	0.007
<i>Gerris odontogaster</i>	12	54	0.058	0.094
<i>Gerris thoracicus</i>	9	47	0.043	0.081
<i>Glossiphonia complanata</i>	37	92	0.179	0.159
<i>Glossiphonia heteroclita</i>	15	70	0.072	0.121
<i>Glyptotaelius pellucidus</i>	22	44	0.106	0.076
<i>Grammotaulius nigropunctatus</i>	3	6	0.014	0.010
<i>Graptodytes flavipes</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Graptodytes granularis</i>	1	9	0.005	0.016
<i>Graptodytes pictus</i>	1	17	0.005	0.029
<i>Gyraulus albus</i>	66	150	0.319	0.260
<i>Gyraulus laevis</i>	4	2	0.019	0.003
<i>Gyrinus caspius</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Gyrinus distinctus</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Gyrinus marinus</i>	2	33	0.010	0.057
<i>Gyrinus substriatus</i>	20	84	0.097	0.146
<i>Gyrinus urinator</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Haemopsis sanguisuga</i>	11	46	0.053	0.080
<i>Halesus digitatus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Halesus radiatus</i>	2	6	0.010	0.010
<i>Haliphus confinis</i>	16	19	0.077	0.033
<i>Haliphus flavicollis</i>	2	30	0.010	0.052
<i>Haliphus fluviatilis</i>	1	11	0.005	0.019
<i>Haliphus fulvus</i>	6	26	0.029	0.045
<i>Haliphus heydeni</i>	1	7	0.005	0.012
<i>Haliphus immaculatus</i>	9	40	0.043	0.069
<i>Haliphus laminatus</i>	2	4	0.010	0.007
<i>Haliphus lineatocollis</i>	16	71	0.077	0.123
<i>Haliphus lineolatus</i>	2	3	0.010	0.005
<i>Haliphus obliquus</i>	6	20	0.029	0.035
<i>Haliphus ruficollis</i>	63	178	0.304	0.308
<i>Haliphus variegatus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Haliphus wehnckeii</i>	3	28	0.014	0.049
<i>Hebrus pusillus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Hebrus ruficeps</i>	0	6	0.000	0.010
<i>Helobdella stagnalis</i>	69	118	0.333	0.205
<i>Helochaetes lividus</i>	24	76	0.116	0.132
<i>Helochaetes punctatus</i>	8	53	0.039	0.092
<i>Helophorus aequalis</i>	12	52	0.058	0.090
<i>Helophorus alternans</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Helophorus avernicus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Helophorus brevipalpis</i>	68	340	0.329	0.589
<i>Helophorus dorsalis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Helophorus flavipes</i>	5	28	0.024	0.049
<i>Helophorus fulgidicollis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002

<i>Helophorus grandis</i>	54	286	0.261	0.496
<i>Helophorus granularis</i>	4	11	0.019	0.019
<i>Helophorus griseus</i>	2	6	0.010	0.010
<i>Helophorus longitarsis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Helophorus minutus</i>	36	122	0.174	0.211
<i>Helophorus nanus</i>	3	11	0.014	0.019
<i>Helophorus obscurus</i>	13	73	0.063	0.127
<i>Helophorus strigifrons</i>	2	4	0.010	0.007
<i>Helophorus terrestrial</i>	3	0	0.014	0.000
<i>Helophorus tuberculatus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hemiclepsis marginata</i>	9	10	0.043	0.017
<i>Heptagenea sulphurea</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hesperocorixa castanea</i>	6	36	0.029	0.062
<i>Hesperocorixa linnei</i>	24	80	0.116	0.139
<i>Hesperocorixa moesta</i>	11	10	0.053	0.017
<i>Hesperocorixa sahlbergi</i>	72	250	0.348	0.433
<i>Heteroceris fenestratus</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Hippeutis complanatus</i>	44	106	0.213	0.184
<i>Hippuriphila modeeri</i>	0	8	0.000	0.014
<i>Holocentropus dubius</i>	5	16	0.024	0.028
<i>Holocentropus picicornis</i>	8	17	0.039	0.029
<i>Holocentropus stagnalis</i>	2	7	0.010	0.012
<i>Hydaticus seminiger</i>	5	19	0.024	0.033
<i>Hydraena britteni</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydraena riparia</i>	6	27	0.029	0.047
<i>Hydraena testacea</i>	4	14	0.019	0.024
<i>Hydrobius fuscipes</i>	83	296	0.401	0.513
<i>Hydrochara caraboides</i>	2	3	0.010	0.005
<i>Hydrochus angustatus</i>	1	17	0.005	0.029
<i>Hydrochus brevis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydrochus carinatus</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Hydrochus elongatus</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Hydroglyphus geminus</i>	2	15	0.010	0.026
<i>Hydroglyphus pusillus</i>	2	0	0.010	0.000
<i>Hydrometra gracilenta</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydrometra stagnorum</i>	42	71	0.203	0.123
<i>Hydroporus angustatus</i>	38	147	0.184	0.255
<i>Hydroporus discretus</i>	1	9	0.005	0.016
<i>Hydroporus erythrocephalus</i>	12	72	0.058	0.125
<i>Hydroporus glabriusculus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Hydroporus gyllenhalii</i>	10	58	0.048	0.101
<i>Hydroporus incognitus</i>	6	37	0.029	0.064
<i>Hydroporus longicornis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydroporus longulus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydroporus marginatus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydroporus melanarius</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydroporus memnonius</i>	15	72	0.072	0.125
<i>Hydroporus neglectus</i>	8	14	0.039	0.024
<i>Hydroporus nigrita</i>	10	61	0.048	0.106
<i>Hydroporus obscurus</i>	3	17	0.014	0.029
<i>Hydroporus obsoletus</i>	2	0	0.010	0.000
<i>Hydroporus palustris</i>	57	251	0.275	0.435
<i>Hydroporus planus</i>	46	270	0.222	0.468
<i>Hydroporus pubescens</i>	12	77	0.058	0.133

<i>Hydroporus rufifrons</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Hydroporus striola</i>	12	50	0.058	0.087
<i>Hydroporus tessellatus</i>	6	71	0.029	0.123
<i>Hydroporus tristis</i>	1	22	0.005	0.038
<i>Hydroporus umbrosus</i>	2	32	0.010	0.055
<i>Hydropsyche angustipennis</i>	2	0	0.010	0.000
<i>Hydrothassa marginella</i>	0	8	0.000	0.014
<i>Hydrovatus clypealis</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Hygrobia hermanni</i>	8	53	0.039	0.092
<i>Hygrotus decoratus</i>	2	8	0.010	0.014
<i>Hygrotus inaequalis</i>	41	209	0.198	0.362
<i>Hygrotus versicolor</i>	5	3	0.024	0.005
<i>Hyphydrus ovatus</i>	24	136	0.116	0.236
<i>Hyrdochus ignicollis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Ilybius ater</i>	23	144	0.111	0.250
<i>Ilybius fenestratus</i>	2	7	0.010	0.012
<i>Ilybius fuliginosus</i>	30	173	0.145	0.300
<i>Ilybius guttiger</i>	5	19	0.024	0.033
<i>Ilybius quadriguttatus</i>	6	47	0.029	0.081
<i>Ilybius subaeneus</i>	0	11	0.000	0.019
<i>Ilyocoris cimicoides</i>	26	93	0.126	0.161
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	72	176	0.348	0.305
<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Laccobius atratus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Laccobius biguttatus</i>	25	91	0.121	0.158
<i>Laccobius bipunctatus</i>	10	39	0.048	0.068
<i>Laccobius colon</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Laccobius minutus</i>	9	30	0.043	0.052
<i>Laccobius sinuatus</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Laccobius striatulus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Laccobius ytenensis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Laccophilus hyalinus</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Laccophilus minutus</i>	36	224	0.174	0.388
<i>Laccornis oblongus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Lasiocephala basalis</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Lepidostoma hirtum</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Leptocerus tineiformis</i>	5	5	0.024	0.009
<i>Leptophlebia marginata</i>	7	7	0.034	0.012
<i>Leptophlebia vespertina</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	3	37	0.014	0.064
<i>Leuctra fusca</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	13	8	0.063	0.014
<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	11	36	0.053	0.062
<i>Limnebius nitidus</i>	1	6	0.005	0.010
<i>Limnebius papposus</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Limnebius truncatellus</i>	7	28	0.034	0.049
<i>Limnephilus affinis incisus</i>	9	21	0.043	0.036
<i>Limnephilus auricula</i>	13	42	0.063	0.073
<i>Limnephilus binotatus</i>	4	2	0.019	0.003
<i>Limnephilus bipunctatus</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Limnephilus centralis</i>	6	21	0.029	0.036
<i>Limnephilus decipiens</i>	7	2	0.034	0.003
<i>Limnephilus extricatus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Limnephilus flavicornis</i>	48	84	0.232	0.146

<i>Limnephilus griseus</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Limnephilus hirsutus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Limnephilus ignavus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Limnephilus lunatus</i>	47	109	0.227	0.189
<i>Limnephilus marmoratus</i>	20	51	0.097	0.088
<i>Limnephilus nigriceps</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Limnephilus politus</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Limnephilus rhombicus</i>	6	3	0.029	0.005
<i>Limnephilus sparsus</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Limnephilus stigma</i>	5	17	0.024	0.029
<i>Limnephilus vittatus</i>	24	154	0.116	0.267
<i>Limnius volckmari</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Limnoxenus niger</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Lymnaea auricularia</i>	1	18	0.005	0.031
<i>Lymnaea glabra</i>	4	8	0.019	0.014
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i>	31	97	0.150	0.168
<i>Lymnaea peregra</i>	89	253	0.430	0.438
<i>Lymnaea stagnalis</i>	59	100	0.285	0.173
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	7	61	0.034	0.106
<i>Lype reducta</i>	2	2	0.010	0.003
<i>Megasternum obscurum</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Mesovelgia furcata</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Microcara testacea</i>	0	13	0.000	0.023
<i>Micronecta poweri</i>	10	0	0.048	0.000
<i>Micronecta scholtzi</i>	3	1	0.014	0.002
<i>Micropterna lateralis</i>	0	4	0.000	0.007
<i>Microvelia buenoi</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Microvelia pygmaea</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Microvelia reticulata</i>	7	61	0.034	0.106
<i>Molanna angustata</i>	6	3	0.029	0.005
<i>Musculium lacustre</i>	15	64	0.072	0.111
<i>Mystacides azurea</i>	7	8	0.034	0.014
<i>Mystacides longicornis</i>	15	8	0.072	0.014
<i>Mystacides nigra</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Myxas glutinosa</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Nebrioporus depressus</i>	1	13	0.005	0.023
<i>Nebrioporus elegans</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Nemoura cambrica</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Nemoura cinerea</i>	7	50	0.034	0.087
<i>Nemurella picteti</i>	5	9	0.024	0.016
<i>Nepa cinerea</i>	32	91	0.155	0.158
<i>Niphargus aquilex</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Noterus clavicornis</i>	62	169	0.300	0.293
<i>Noterus crassicornis</i>	0	16	0.000	0.028
<i>Notonecta glauca</i>	91	329	0.440	0.570
<i>Notonecta maculata</i>	13	0	0.063	0.000
<i>Notonecta marmorea</i>	5	17	0.024	0.029
<i>Notonecta obliqua</i>	7	7	0.034	0.012
<i>Nymphula stagnata</i>	0	4	0.000	0.007
<i>Ochthebius dilatatus</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Ochthebius marinus</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Ochthebius minimus</i>	16	107	0.077	0.185
<i>Ochthebius nanus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Ochthebius punctatus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002

<i>Ochthebius viridis</i>	0	4	0.000	0.007
<i>Oecetis lacustris</i>	2	3	0.010	0.005
<i>Oecetis ochracea</i>	2	4	0.010	0.007
<i>Oligotricha striata</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Oreodytes sanmarkii</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	2	2	0.010	0.003
<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Oulimnius tuberculatus</i>	2	7	0.010	0.012
<i>Oxyloma pfeifferi</i>	4	24	0.019	0.042
<i>Paracorixa concinna</i>	4	0	0.019	0.000
<i>Paracymus scutellaris</i>	0	8	0.000	0.014
<i>Paraleptophlebia submarginata</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Paraponyx stratiotata</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Peltodytes caesus</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Phaedon armoraciae</i>	9	46	0.043	0.080
<i>Phryganea bipunctata</i>	18	10	0.087	0.017
<i>Phryganea grandis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Physa acuta</i>	24	20	0.116	0.035
<i>Physa fontinalis</i>	23	22	0.111	0.038
<i>Physa heterostropha</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Piscicola geometra</i>	8	9	0.039	0.016
<i>Pisidium casertanum</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Pisidium hybernicum</i>	3	1	0.014	0.002
<i>Pisidium nitidum</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Pisidium subtruncatum</i>	3	3	0.014	0.005
<i>Pisidium supinum</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Planaria torva</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Planorbarius corneus</i>	44	51	0.213	0.088
<i>Planorbis carinatus</i>	22	56	0.106	0.097
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>	18	29	0.087	0.050
<i>Platambus maculatus</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Plateumaris discolor</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Plateumaris sericea</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Plea leachi</i>	9	48	0.043	0.083
<i>Plectrocnemia conspersa</i>	1	3	0.005	0.005
<i>Polycelis felina</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Polycelis nigra</i>	11	28	0.053	0.049
<i>Polycelis tenuis</i>	33	159	0.159	0.276
<i>Polycentropus flavomaculatus</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Porhydrus lineatus</i>	0	34	0.000	0.059
<i>Potamanthus luteus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Potamonectes assimilis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Potamophylax latipennis</i>	1	1	0.005	0.002
<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	44	55	0.213	0.095
<i>Prasocuris phellandrii</i>	1	19	0.005	0.033
<i>Prasocurus junci</i>	0	6	0.000	0.010
<i>Procloeon bifidum</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Psylliodes affinis</i>	0	4	0.000	0.007
<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	37	88	0.179	0.153
<i>Radix auricularia</i>	2	0	0.010	0.000
<i>Radix balthica</i>	4	0	0.019	0.000
<i>Ranatra linearis</i>	7	5	0.034	0.009
<i>Rhantus exsoletus</i>	1	15	0.005	0.026
<i>Rhantus frontalis</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002

<i>Rhantus grapii</i>	0	3	0.000	0.005
<i>Rhantus suturalis</i>	4	4	0.019	0.007
<i>Rhantus suturellus</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Scirtes hemisphaericus</i>	6	32	0.029	0.055
<i>Sericostoma personatum</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Sialis fuliginosa</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Sialis lutaria</i>	55	141	0.266	0.244
<i>Sigara concinna</i>	6	43	0.029	0.075
<i>Sigara distincta</i>	31	117	0.150	0.203
<i>Sigara dorsalis</i>	57	132	0.275	0.229
<i>Sigara falleni</i>	28	63	0.135	0.109
<i>Sigara fossarum</i>	8	53	0.039	0.092
<i>Sigara lateralis</i>	24	53	0.116	0.092
<i>Sigara limitata</i>	10	27	0.048	0.047
<i>Sigara nigrolineata</i>	13	56	0.063	0.097
<i>Sigara scotti</i>	1	14	0.005	0.024
<i>Sigara semistriata</i>	1	17	0.005	0.029
<i>Sigara stagnalis</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Sigara venusta</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Siphonurus lacustris</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Sisyra fuscata</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Sphaerium corneum</i>	19	112	0.092	0.194
<i>Sphaerium rivicola</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Stagnicola palustris</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Stenophylax permistus</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Stictonectes lepidus</i>	1	4	0.005	0.007
<i>Stictotarsus duodecimpustulatus</i>	0	8	0.000	0.014
<i>Succinea putris</i>	2	5	0.010	0.009
<i>Suphrodytes dorsalis</i>	11	59	0.053	0.102
<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Sympetrum flaviolulum</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	1	0	0.005	0.000
<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	8	34	0.039	0.059
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	27	89	0.130	0.154
<i>Tanysphyrus lemnae</i>	2	17	0.010	0.029
<i>Theromyzon tessulatum</i>	34	89	0.164	0.154
<i>Tinodes waeneri</i>	5	2	0.024	0.003
<i>Triaenodes bicolor</i>	14	38	0.068	0.066
<i>Tricholeiochiton fagesii</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Trichostegia minor</i>	3	18	0.014	0.031
<i>Trocheta bykowskii</i>	0	1	0.000	0.002
<i>Valvata cristata</i>	0	15	0.000	0.026
<i>Valvata macrostoma</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Valvata piscinalis</i>	9	10	0.043	0.017
<i>Velia caprai</i>	4	8	0.019	0.014
<i>Viviparus contectus</i>	0	2	0.000	0.003
<i>Viviparus viviparus</i>	1	2	0.005	0.003
<i>Zonitoides nitidus</i>	7	4	0.034	0.007

Table S10 - Aquatic macroinvertebrate families identified as statistically significant indicator species for urban or non-urban ponds.

Habitat	Taxon	statistic	p-value
Non-urban ponds	Nemouridae	0.341	0.007
	Heptageniidae	0.196	0.021
Urban ponds	Chironomidae	0.719	0.001
	Oligochaeta	0.690	0.001
	Crangonyctidae	0.632	0.001
	Sphaeriidae	0.511	0.001
	Ceratopogonidae	0.477	0.001
	Dixidae	0.463	0.001
	Hydrobiidae	0.458	0.001
	Culicidae	0.449	0.001
	Physidae	0.447	0.001
	Psychodidae	0.426	0.001
	Hydrometridae	0.412	0.001
	Nepidae	0.377	0.001
	Dugesidae	0.362	0.001
	Stratiomyidae	0.302	0.001
	Hydroptilidae	0.278	0.003
	Dendrocoelidae	0.275	0.001
	Hydrachnidae	0.213	0.001
	Chaoboridae	0.161	0.01
	Ptychopteridae	0.161	0.017
	Simuliidae	0.161	0.014

Table S11 - Aquatic macroinvertebrate species identified as statistically significant indicator species for urban or non-urban ponds.

Habitat	Taxon	statistic	p-value
Non-urban ponds	<i>Hydroporus planus</i>	0.573	0.001
	<i>Hydroporus pubescens</i>	0.390	0.001
	<i>Helochaers punctatus</i>	0.382	0.001
	<i>Hydroporus erythrocephalus</i>	0.373	0.003
	<i>Cymbiodyta marginella</i>	0.365	0.005
	<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	0.362	0.001
	<i>Copelatus haemorrhoidalis</i>	0.346	0.004
	<i>Hydroporus gyllenhalii</i>	0.339	0.001
	<i>Hydroporus tessellatus</i>	0.327	0.003
	<i>Bathynomphalus contortus</i>	0.318	0.009
	<i>Hesperocorixa castanea</i>	0.298	0.023
	<i>Argyroneta aquatica</i>	0.298	0.004
	<i>Hydroporus memnonius</i>	0.283	0.011
	<i>Hydroporus umbrosus</i>	0.262	0.037
	<i>Coelostoma orbiculare</i>	0.248	0.04
	<i>Hydroporus tristis</i>	0.246	0.007
	<i>Enochrus ochropterus</i>	0.246	0.004
	<i>Hydroporus nigrita</i>	0.238	0.018
	<i>Ilybius quadriguttatus</i>	0.234	0.05
	<i>Haliphus flavicollis</i>	0.231	0.035
	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	0.223	0.015
	<i>Hydroporus obscurus</i>	0.215	0.026
	<i>Valvata cristata</i>	0.215	0.029
	<i>Sigara scotti</i>	0.198	0.035
Urban ponds	<i>Crangonyx pseudogracilis</i>	0.688	0.001
	<i>Lymnaea stagnalis</i>	0.499	0.001
	<i>Gammarus pulex</i>	0.480	0.001
	<i>Planorbarius corneus</i>	0.468	0.001
	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	0.442	0.001
	<i>Hydrometra stagnorum</i>	0.409	0.003
	<i>Erpobdella testacea</i>	0.406	0.001
	<i>Physa fontinalis</i>	0.368	0.001
	<i>Dugesia polychroa</i>	0.354	0.001
	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	0.347	0.002
	<i>Dugesia tigrina</i>	0.338	0.001
	<i>Phryganea bipunctata</i>	0.328	0.001
	<i>Caenis horaria</i>	0.306	0.035
	<i>Haliphus confinis</i>	0.295	0.003
	<i>Dendrocoelum lacteum</i>	0.294	0.001
	<i>Mystacides longicornis</i>	0.290	0.001
	<i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>	0.285	0.001
	<i>Physa acuta</i>	0.284	0.009
	<i>Agraylea multipunctata</i>	0.281	0.001

<i>Micronecta poweri</i>	0.280	0.001
<i>Notonecta maculata</i>	0.265	0.001
<i>Cyrnus trimaculatus</i>	0.253	0.001
<i>Hesperocorixa moesta</i>	0.250	0.018
<i>Ilyocoris cimicoides</i>	0.250	0.002
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	0.247	0.004
<i>Hemicleptis marginata</i>	0.237	0.011
<i>Anax imperator</i>	0.228	0.028
<i>Limnephilus decipiens</i>	0.220	0.004
<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	0.217	0.001
<i>Zonitoides nitidus</i>	0.217	0.002
<i>Piscicola geometra</i>	0.214	0.013
<i>Caenis rivulorum</i>	0.189	0.015
<i>Agraylea sexmaculata</i>	0.189	0.02
<i>Molanna angustata</i>	0.189	0.012
<i>Hygrotus versicolor</i>	0.182	0.039
<i>Paracorixa concinna</i>	0.177	0.008
<i>Gammarus lacustris</i>	0.177	0.011
<i>Radix balthica</i>	0.177	0.008
<i>Limnephilus binotatus</i>	0.168	0.041
<i>Agrypnia pagetana</i>	0.168	0.034

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