`rbioacc`: an `R`-package to analyze toxicokinetic data

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Abstract

1. `rbioacc` is an `R`-package dedicated to the analysis of experimental data collected from bioaccumulation tests during which organisms are exposed to a chemical (exposure phase) and then put into a clean media (depuration phase). Internal concentrations are regularly measured over time all along the experiment.

2. `rbioacc` provides ready-to-use functions to visualise and fully analyse such data. It automatically builds a generic one-compartment toxicokinetic (TK) model and provides TK parameter estimates (appropriate uptake and elimination rates) and bioaccumulation metrics (e.g., BCF, BSAF, BMF) by fitting it on data under a Bayesian framework. All parameter estimates, bioaccumulation metrics as well as predictions of internal concentrations in organisms are delivered with the quantification of their uncertainty.

3.   Bioaccumulation metrics are primarily provided in support of environmental risk

assessment, in full compliance with regulatory requirements. Bioaccumulation

metrics are classically requested by standardised regulatory guidelines on which

national agencies base their evaluation of marketing applications for regulatory

approval of chemical substances.

4.   This paper gives brief worked examples of the use of `rbioacc` from data collected

through standard bioaccumulation tests, and publicly available within the scientific

literature. These examples constitute step-by-step user-guides to analyse any new

data set, given they are uploaded in the right format.

Keywords

33   Bayesian   inference,   bioaccumulation   metrics,   Ecotoxicology,   Environmental   Risk

34   Assessment, R-Shiny web interface, `R`-software, Toxicokinetic models, Uncertainty.

Introduction

At least in part, Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) is based on OECD regulatory

guidelines to perform bioaccumulation tests (*e.g.*, the test n°305 (Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development, 2012) or the test n°315 (Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development, 2008)). These documents specify the workflow

to follow to obtain the bioaccumulation metrics on which regulatory decisions will be

based. Indeed, the bioaccumulation metrics are key criteria to define the capacity of

chemicals to bioaccumulate within organisms. This workflow can be performed with

`rbioacc`, or directly on-line with the MOSAIC web platform at https://mosaic.univ-

lyon1.fr/bioacc, making it easy for stakeholders to achieve this workflow. `rbioacc` provides

ready-to-use functions to visualize and fully analyze bioaccumulation test data. Such a data

is during when organisms are exposed to a chemical (exposure phase) and then put into a

clean media (depuration phase). Internal concentrations are regularly measured over time

all along the experiment. `rbioacc` automatically builds a generic one-compartment

toxicokinetic (TK) model and provides TK parameter estimates (appropriate uptake and

elimination rates) and bioaccumulation metrics (e.g., the Bio-Concentration Factor, or BCF)

by fitting the TK model on data under a Bayesian framework. All parameter estimates,

bioaccumulation metrics as well as predictions of internal concentrations in organisms are

delivered with the quantification of their uncertainty. The overall uncertainty is estimated

as a joint posterior probability distribution, and marginally summarized for outputs as a

median and a 95% credible interval (namely, the uncertainty range).

Statement of need

`rbioacc` is an `R`-package compatible with `R` version > 4.1.0 (R Core Team, 2021) and

with all standard operating systems (macOS, Linux, Windows). All `rbioacc` outputs have

been compared with previously published results considering other TK model

implementations under different software platforms. Giving very similar results, `rbioacc`

was thus confirmed as fit-for-purpose to fit TK models on bioaccumulation test data

(Charles, Ratier, Baudrot, et al., 2021; Charles, Ratier, & Lopes, 2021; Ratier & Charles,

2021; Ratier, Lopes, Geffard, & Babut, 2021). All functions in `rbioacc` can be used without a

deep knowledge neither of the underlying probabilistic modelling or of the inference

methodology. Indeed, they were designed to behave easily as possible, without requiring

the user to provide prior values for input parameters. Meanwhile, models implemented in

`rbioacc` can be used as a first step to explore new models which could reveal more

appropriate for some situations. Note that `rbioacc` benefits from a user-friendly and freely

available web interface, MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$, from which the same analyses can be reproduced

directly on-line without having to implement them in `R` programming. MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ is

directly accessible from the MOSAIC platform at https://mosaic.univ-lyon1.fr (Charles,

Delignette-Muller, Veber, & Delignette-Muller, 2018) or directly from https://mosaic.univ-

lyon1.fr/bioacc (Ratier, Lopes, Multari, et al., 2021).

Availability

`rbioacc` is available as an official `R`-package directly downloaded from CRAN at

https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=rbioacc. Other package dependencies and system

requirements are documented to help users with their installation issues. Besides, `rbioacc`

is available on the GitHub repository https://github.com/aursiber/rbioacc/, especially for

advanced users encountering troubles or having suggestions regarding the features or the

hidden content of the `rbioacc` functions.

Installation

`rbioacc` is linked to Stan, a Bayesian sampler used to perform Bayesian inference with

already implemented models, methods, and algorithms (Carpenter et al., 2017). Stan is fully

integrated to `R` via the `rstan` (Stan Development Team, 2021) and `rstantools` (Gabry,

Goodrich, & Lysy, 2020) packages. In additional, to use `rbioacc`, you need to install all the

other `R`-packages dependencies: `ggplot2`, `Rcpp` (>= 0.12.0), `RcppParallel` (>= 5.0.1),

`testthat, `ggmcmc`, `GGally`, `loo`, `stringr`, `zoo` (>= 1.8-9), `BH` (>= 1.66.0), `RcppEigen`

(>= 0.3.3.3.0), `StanHeaders` (>= 2.18.0)`, `knitr`, and `rmarkdown`. For this purpose, you

can use the classical `R` command that is provided in the `R`-script (Supplementary

Information, SI). `rbioacc` is also linked to the programming language C++ that speeds up

calculations and runs simulations delivering the TK predictions. You should not have issues

with C++ requirements since it is very well integrated in `R`.

Main features

The main functions in `rbioacc` are `modelData()` and `modelData_ode()` to format and

visualise raw data as well as to build the corresponding TK model. The `fitTK()` function

allows to fit a generic one-compartment TK model on the raw data; it provides estimates of

the TK model parameters and the subsequent bioaccumulation metrics. Fitting outputs can

be either displayed with `plot()` or summarised with `quantile_table()`. For the calculation

of bioaccumulation metrics, both the `bioacc_metric()` and `plot()` functions may be run

delivering the plot of the posterior probability distribution of the bioaccumulation metric

density. The `quantile()` function gives a summary of this distribution with the median

(50% quantile) and the uncertainty range (2.5% and 97.5% quantiles). The time at which

95% of the chemical is eliminated is provided by the `t95()` function. Underlying equations

of the fitted TK model, automatically built by the package from the input data, can be

displayed and stored with the `equations()` function, once the fitting process is complete.

Other functions are available to check the goodness-of-fit (GoF) based on several criteria

that we chose for their relevance and wide use in the Bayesian community: the Posterior

Predictive Check (PPC, with the `ppc()` function); the comparison between marginal prior

and posterior probability distributions of the TK parameters (with the `plot_PriorPost()`

function); the correlation matrix between parameter estimates obtained from the joint

posterior probability distribution (with the `corrMatrix()` function); the correlation plot

between parameter estimates displayed from the join posterior probability distribution

(with the `corrPlot()` function); the Potential Scale Reduction Factors of the parameters

(PSRF, with the `psrf()` function, expected to be < 1.01); the Widely Applicable Information

Criterion (WAIC, with the `waic()` function) for model comparisons on a same data set; and

the Monte Carlo Markov Chain (MCMC) chains (n = 3 by default) with the `mcmcTraces()`

function. Additionally, the `predict()` and `predict_manual()` functions allow to perform

predictions of internal concentrations within organisms, with or without previously

observed data.

`rbioacc` currently handles constant and time-variable exposure concentration data

according to a generic workflow:

1.   Upload and format a data set;

2.   Plot the data set;

3.   Fit the appropriate TK model on the data;

4.   Get model equations, parameter estimates and bioaccumulation metrics (chosen

according to the exposure as automatically detected from the input data);

5.   Get model predictions and their uncertainty superimposed to the data (Visual

Posterior Check or VPC);

6.   Check GoF criteria, prioritizing the PPC and the associated percentage of the

130   observed data that are comprised within the 95% uncertainty range of their

131   predictions (expected to be close to 95%);

132   7.   Perform validation of the model comparing simulations under a new exposure

133   concentration and externally collected data.

Those steps are described in full details in a `Tutorial` available at

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5092316, including the description on how to use all

`rbioacc` features. More information on the model and the inference process used in

`rbioacc` are given an on-line `User Guide` available at http://lbbe-shiny.univ-

lyon1.fr/mosaic-bioacc/data/user_guide.pdf but also in our companion paper of the

MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ web interface (Ratier et al., 2021). Please refer to this documentation for

further introduction to the use of `rbioacc`.

Brief worked examples

The ERA workflow

The ERA workflow proposed by the EFSA in the case of toxicokinetic-toxicodynamic (TKTD)

models for the regulatory risk assessment of pesticides for aquatic organisms (Ockleford et

al., 2018) consists of three steps: calibration, validation, and prediction. This workflow also

applies to any TK model. The calibration step consists in fitting a TK model on

bioaccumulation test data to get TK parameter estimates and deduce the bioaccumulation

metrics: the BCF, the bio-sediment accumulation factor (BSAF) or the bio-magnification

factor (BMF) depending on whether the exposure is by water, sediment, or food,

respectively. All GoF criteria must be checked before proceeding to the validation step. The

validation step consists in simulating the internal concentration over time as induced by the

exposure to a chemical and comparing the predictions to newly collected bioaccumulation

data. Results are validated from a VPC and 3 additional quantitative criteria (Ockleford et

al., 2018). Finally, the prediction step consists in making simulations under more realistic

exposure scenarios to assess the risk in closer relationship with the real world. For this last

step which completes the entire workflow, it is of the utmost importance for the TK model

to have been thoroughly calibrated and validated beforehand for the chemical-species

combination under consideration.

To be in full compliance with regulatory guidelines and the above-mentioned workflow, the

modus operandi with `rbioacc` is illustrated below to be followed step-by-step with any

other data set.

Calibration step

To first illustrate the calibration step, we built two basic examples using standard

bioaccumulation data sets available within `rbioacc` thanks to the `data()` function. The first

data set was collected from a laboratory bioaccumulation test with the rainbow trout

(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) exposed to 2 different concentrations of a highly hydrophobic

compound in spiked water for 49 days. There was 1 replicate per concentration. The

duration of the depuration phase was 97 days. Internal concentrations were monitored at

regular time points (Crookes & Brooke, 2011). The second example concerned the species

Chironomus tentans, a freshwater invertebrate, exposed to benzo[a]pyrene in spiked

sediment for 3 days. Only 1 exposure concentration was tested with 2 replicates. The

duration of the depuration phase was 3 days. The internal concentrations for both the

parent compound and its phase I metabolite were monitored at regular time points

(Schuler, Wheeler, Bailer, & Lydy, 2003).

Upload data and fit the TK model accordingly

For the first example, because 2 different exposure concentrations were tested, one of them

must be chosen before performing the analysis with `rbioacc`. For the second example, only

1 concentration has been tested; thus, the TK analysis can directly be launched with

`rbioacc`. See the `R`-code in SI to be copy and paste, and identically reproduce all the

results.

Results

The major results provided by `rbioacc` are the predictions of the internal concentrations

from the fitted model, superimposed to the observed data over time with the `plot()`

function. The posterior probability distribution of the bioaccumulation metric(s) is (are)

given by the `bioacc_metric()` function; this function applies whatever the exposure

route(s) and the elimination process(es). If `bioacc_metric()` is used with its default option,

it provides the kinetic bioaccumulation metric(s). The steady-state bioaccumulation

metric(s) is also available given the data shows having more or less reached the steady-

state at the end of the accumulation phase. A summary of the TK model parameter

probability distributions is given by the `quantile_table()` function. In addition, `rbioacc`

provides the equations of the underlying model, automatically built from the input data

with the `equations()` function.

Figure 1 below shows the internal concentrations predicted from the fitted model and

superimposed to the observed data for example 1: *Oncorhynchus mykiss* exposed to a

hydrophobic chemical.

Figure 1*: Fitting plots provided by `rbioacc` for the example 1 with Oncorhynchus mykiss. Black dots are the*

observed data. The predicted median is symbolised by the orange plain line and the 95% uncertainty range by the

grey area.

Figure 2 below shows the internal concentrations predicted from the fitted model and

superimposed to the observed data for example 2: *Chironomus tentans* exposed to

benzo[a]pyrene.

Figure 2*: Fitting plots provided by `rbioacc` for the example 2 with Chironomus tentans. Both fitting plots are*

displayed, for the parent compound (left) and its phase I metabolite (right). Black dots are the observed data. The

predicted median curves are represented by the orange plain lines and the associated 95% uncertainty range by

the grey areas.

Other goodness-of-fit criteria

Once the predictions of the internal concentrations are visually checked (VPC, Figs 1 & 2)

several other GoF criteria require to be checked to evaluate how relevant are the fitting

outputs. For example, the PPC plot allows to compare each observed value to its prediction

from the fitted TK model associated with its 95% uncertainty range. If the fit is correct, it is

expected to have 95% of the observed values inside their 95% uncertainty range. With

`rbioacc`, the PPC can be obtained with the `ppc()` function as illustrated in Figure 3 below

for example 2: we got 94.6% of data included within their uncertainty range. Additional

GOF can also be checked, such as the comparison of prior and posterior probability

distributions with the `plot_PriorPost()` function, the correlation matrix of the model

parameters (with the `corrMatrix()` and/or `corrPlot()` functions), the PSRF for each

parameter with the `psrf()` function, and the traces of the MCMC chains for each parameter

with the `mcmcTraces()` function (see SI). If several models have been fitted to the same

data set then the WAIC can be asked for their comparison with the `waic()` function.

Figure 3*: Posterior Predictive Check (PPC) as given by `rbioacc` to check the goodness-of-fit for the example 2*

with Chironomus tentans: PPC for the parent compound (left) and PPC for its phase I metabolite (right).

Validation step

To illustrate the validation step with `rbioacc`, we chose a data set concerning *Spirostomum*

ambiguum exposed to the pharmaceutical product fluoxetine at 0.025 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ under

spiked water for 6 days (Nalecz-Jaweski, Wawryniuk, Giebultowicz, Olkowski, &

Drobniewska, 2020). These data were first used to calibrate the appropriate TK model and

to get the joint posterior probability distribution of the model parameters (results not

shown). Once calibrated, the model was used to predict what may happen at 0.1 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ of

exposure for which data were also available. Then, predictions were superimposed to these

new data (Figure 4).

Figure 4: *Example of a validation step for the example with Spirostomum ambiguum exposed to fluoxetine at 0.1*

$\mu g.mL^{-1}$. The orange curve is the predicted median of the internal concentration from the TK parameters

estimated at 0.025 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ during a previous calibration step. The grey area is the 95% uncertainty range of

the predictions, while black dots are the new observed data at 0.1 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$.

Prediction step

If the previous validation step provides relevant outputs, then the prediction step can be

undertaken for further simulations at untested exposure concentrations or for a different

accumulation time. In this perspective, both the `predict()` or `predict_manual()` functions

of `rbioacc` can be used. From the previous validation step with *Spirostomum ambiguum*, we

performed simulation at 0.05 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ (Figure 5). This prediction was obtained by

propagating the uncertainty on TK parameter estimates from the very first calibration step

with *Spirostomum ambiguum.*

Figure 5: *Example of a prediction step for the example with Spirostomum ambiguum exposed to fluoxetine at*

0.05 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$. The orange curve is the predicted median of the internal concentration with TK parameters

estimated from data at 0.025 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$. The gray area is the 95% uncertainty range around the median curve.

Another situation may require the use of the prediction step. Indeed, it may happen that

only mean or median values for each parameter are available. These values may come from

the scientific literature or from previous experiments for which the associated raw TK data

have not been recorded. In such situations, neither calibration nor validation can be

performed. Thus, only the `predict_manual()` function can be used as illustrated below

(Figure 6) from median values of TK parameters provided for *Oncorhynchus mykiss* by the

authors themselves (Crookes & Brooke, 2011) at 0.01 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$. The exposure

concentration 0.01 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ was used in Figure 6, but the user can choose any other value,

for example to design a new experiment for the same species-chemical combination.

Figure 6: *Example of a prediction step for fish Oncorhynchus mykiss exposed to a hydrophobic chemical. The*

orange curve is the predicted median curve of the internal concentration simulated from the median TK

parameter values provided in the original paper at 0.01 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ (Crookes & Brooke, 2011).

Bioaccumulation under time-variable exposure profiles

To mimic realistic environmental conditions, most often fluctuating than constant (*e.g.*,

when collecting field data), it may need to predict the internal concentration under time-

variable exposure profiles (Ashauer & Brown, 2013; Baudrot & Charles, 2019). Such

situations can easily be explored with `rbioacc`. First, it requires to upload two data files

(one is expected when the exposure concentration is constant): one text file with the time-

variable exposure concentrations over time (at least two columns entitled `time` and

`Cwater`) and another one with the corresponding internal concentration values over time

(at least two columns entitled `time` and `Cinternal`); these internal concentrations may

have been previously simulated with the fitted corresponding TK model by `rbioacc`.

Secondly, it requires to call the `modelData_ode()` function which automatically manages

the numerical integration of the ordinary differential equations that make the model behind

and run simulations. Then the other functions of `rbioacc` can be used as illustrated above

to get results and GOF criteria. The `R`-code in SI gives an example with a data set

concerning *Sialis lutaria* exposed to a time-variable exposure profile of chlorpyrifos spiked

water for 2 days (Rubach et al., 2010).

MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$: a web service interfacing `rbioacc`

Brief presentation

The MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ web service has been designed to allow user-friendly TK modelling of

complex situations in the field of ecotoxicology (Ratier, Lopes, Multari, et al., 2021). It is

developed under the `R-shiny` environment (Chang et al., 2021), providing an interactive

interface to `rbioacc`. MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ also exploits the generic one-compartment TK model

(Charles, Ratier, Baudrot, et al., 2021), meaning that organisms are considered as whole and

unique compartments. Nevertheless, MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ proposes a more complex TK model than

what is classically used today, offering the possibility to account for multiple exposure

routes (up to four, among water, sediment, pore water and/or food) as well as the

possibility of biotransformation of the parent chemical into several phase I metabolites; and

the potential dilution by growth of organisms (growth measurements are additionally

required). MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ automatically builds the TK model appropriate to the uploaded

data, benefiting from the `rbioacc` functions running behind on a dedicated server.

MOSAIC_bioacc delivers all the GoF criteria for the user to easily assess the quality of the fitting

results. It is a tool really thought for the regulatory domain, but that can also be helpful for

the academic research or education.

Last updates

Based on the clear observation that it is difficult to find enough raw data sets to validate

generic modelling approaches, especially for TK models, we have recently developed a

database with a collection of more than 200 accumulation-depuration data sets. They were

extracted from the scientific literature and are now freely available on-line at http://lbbe-

shiny.univ-lyon1.fr/mosaic-bioacc/data/database/TK_database.html. These data sets are

associated with several outputs: the text file with raw data under the expected 'rbioacc'

input format; the full report with the fitting results and the GoF criteria as provided either

by MOSAIC_bioacc or `rbioacc`; and a link to the original paper (Ratier & Charles, 2021).

MOSAIC_bioacc recently shifted from an all-embarked web application to be a user interface of

the newly developed `rbioacc` package. It allows all users to bring MOSAIC_bioacc and its self-

explanatory functions to their own device for an easy integration of its methodology to

every workflow. Furthermore, new features were added: a validation and prediction tools

with the recent functions implemented in `rbioacc`. The present section showcases these

very last updates of MOSAIC_bioacc still improving its intuitive use for any user without any

need to invest in the underlying technicalities.

Aesthetic

The previous version of MOSAIC_bioacc was based on a scroll of only one web page. The new

version works with several tabs unlocked once the user performed the actions required

from the previous tab, except for the prediction and validation tabs that are always

available. Globally, the same visual elements were kept, but they got reorganised in a tab

structure with 5 different levels (Figure 7): `Data upload`, `Model and parameters`,

`Results`, `Downloads`, `Prediction tool`. The results of the fitting process were also

compacted in a tab and column structure to better suit the new no-scroll policy. This

tremendously reduced the length of the previously displayed unique web page. This

revamp in a tab based interface, as well as other minor changes, were partly decided upon

by analysing the behaviour of the potential users of MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$.

Figure 7: *Visual homepage of the MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ first tab (`Data upload`); once a data set has been uploaded, the*

second tab (`Model and parameters`) is unlocked from which the TK model run can be asked thus unlocking

`Results` and `Downloads` tabs in the following.

Architecture

The previous version of MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ suffered from a mix of classical and reactive `R` coding,

the biggest obstacle being the use of global variables. Global variables are generally not

meant to be used in a reactive context, but can be forced if unavoidable for some very

punctual cases. Using global variables allowed for a more classical way of coding, but it

generated a series of scope related bugs, notably for the downloads, that needed to be fixed

with lengthy patch ups. Furthermore, using global variables promotes excessive code re-

evaluation, making the application less effective. Due to the long and iterative development

process by different staff members, other issues appeared such as code duplication,

repetitive operations on variables, creation of unused variables and non explicit, temporary

variable names that ended up being kept. All in all, the 'server' file (`server.R`, required by a

`R-Shiny` development) of the previous version of MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ was approximately 4.5k

lines long. For all these reasons, this file was entirely rewritten, which allows an easier code

to maintain, to understand and to upgrade, by sectioning the code in multiple files; by

introducing documentation with the `roxygen2` package (Wickham, Danenberg, Csardi, &

Eugster, 2021) and more extensive comments through the code; and by strictly managing

variable dependencies in an explicit way. With both the refactoring of the code and the

integration of `rbioacc`, the `server.R` file became approximately 1k lines long, 1.5k lines

long by taking into account the other files containing code used by the server file itself. The

major benefit to this restructuring was to include `rbioacc` in the downloadable `R`-code

from the application, gaining clarity and lines long, easier for a user to reuse the `R` code.

New features

A validation and prediction tools were added to MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$, for simulations of a chosen TK

model with parameter values coming from either a previous calibration step, taken in the

joint probability distribution of the estimated TK parameters, or manually entered by the

user as point parameter values. So, the validation and the prediction tools allow the user to

either propagate the uncertainties on parameters or not, in order to perform a simulation

for a new exposure concentration. The validation tool takes things a step further by

allowing the visual comparison of the predicted accumulation-depuration curve to newly

observed validation data; in this case, the uncertainty on parameter estimates is required so

that a previous calibration step needs to have been performed earlier.

Conclusion

`rbioacc` was designed to help stakeholders and researchers to analyse TK data collected

from bioaccumulation tests. This turnkey package automatically builds and fits the

appropriate TK model, providing TK parameter estimates, GoF criteria and bioaccumulation

metrics (namely, BCF/BSAF/BMF). In particular, it is designed to fulfil all requirements of

regulators when examining marketing applications for chemical approval. In this

perspective, the associated MOSAIC$_{bioacc}$ web interface may reveals of particular help if

supported by supervisory bodies.

Declarations

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Author contributions

A.R.: supervision, formal analysis, data curation, writing manuscript. V.B. (main developer of `rbioacc`): conceptualisation, methodology, data curation, visualisation, writing manuscript. M.K.: data curation, conceptualisation, methodology, visualisation, writing manuscript. C.L.: supervision, formal analysis, data curation, reviewing manuscript. A.S.: conceptualisation, software maintenance, formal analysis, data curation, reviewing

389   manuscript. S.C.: supervision, funding acquisition, project administration, formal analysis,

390   data curation, reviewing manuscript.

Conflict of interest

392   The authors declare no conflict of interests.

Supplementary information

All data sets used in this paper to illustrate the use of `rbioacc` are available either within

the package (with the `data()` function), or within the public TK database at http://lbbe-

shiny.univ-lyon1.fr/mosaic-bioacc/data/database/TK_database.html.

The `R`-script with all the `R`-commands allowing to exactly reproduce all the analyses

together with the resulting figures of the manuscript are available at our GitLab repository

of the `rbioacc` package: https://github.com/aursiber/rbioacc.

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