Appendix S3. Effects of individual ecological variables on ecological distance matrix calculated using Mahalanobis distance

Scatter plots of ecological dissimilarities between pairs of sites (Mahalanobis distances) versus raw differences in ecological variables. The plots show that as pairwise differences in a given ecological variable deviate from zero (positively or negatively), the corresponding Mahalanobis distances between pairs of sites tend to increase. Large Mahalanobis distances occurring near the zero value of the horizontal axis are the result of differences between sites with respect to other ecological variables. The horizontal axes in these plots are pairwise differences between African sites in mean diurnal temperature range, isothermality, mean annual precipitation and mean annual temperature.