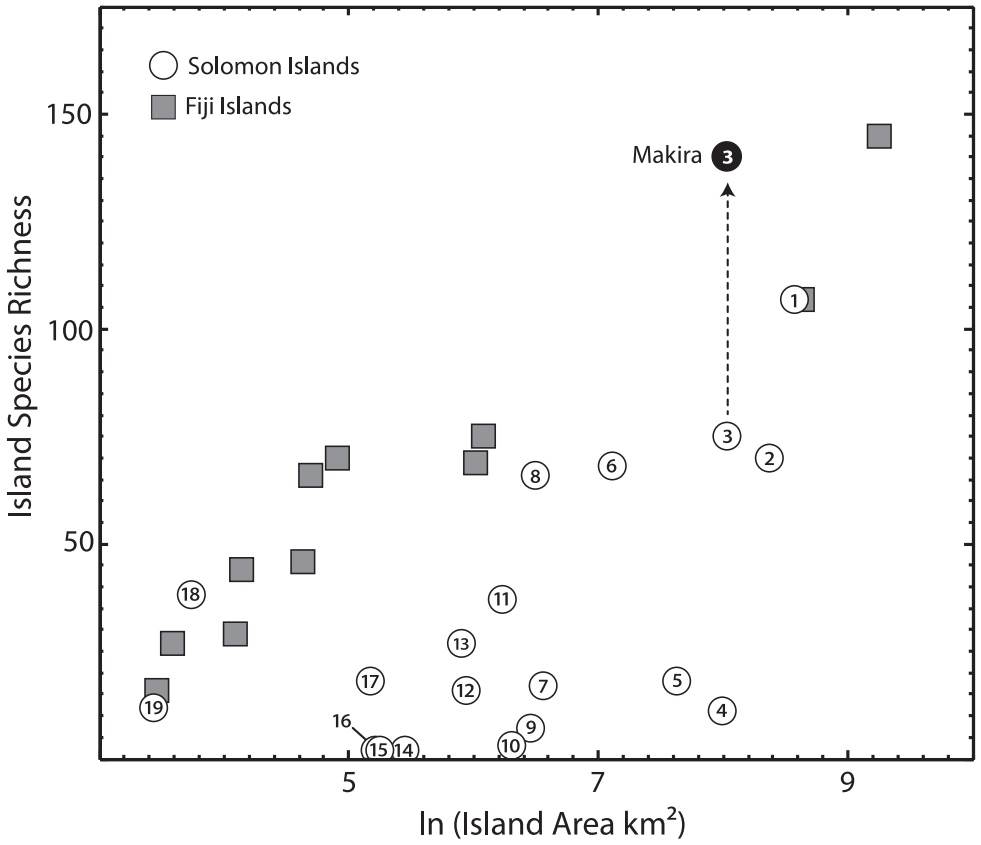

Figure 2. The relationship between islands area and known species richness. The figure presents individual islands in the Solomon (circles) and Fijian (squares) archipelagos, illustrating the undersampling of most Solomon Islands relative to the better collected Fiji Islands. For Makira, we present known species richness before (open circle) and after (filled circle) our recent collecting expedition. Numbers: **1** Guadalcanal **2** Malaita **3** Makira **4** Choiseul **5** New Georgia **6**Santa Isabel **7** Kolombangara **8** Rennell **9** Vella Lavella **10** Vangunu **11** Nendö (Santa Cruz) **12** Rendova **13** Nggela Sule **14** Shortland **15** Vanikoro **16** San Jorge **17** Russell Is. **18** Ugi **19** Savo.

Why is *Polyrhachis* so strongly represented in the Solomons? These results are likely biased to some extent by idiosyncratic collecting and taxonomic study. Besides the work of Mann, and to a lesser extent Greenslade, most of the collections from the Solomons have been made by more generalist collectors, which tend to take larger, more conspicuous ants that forage on and nest in vegetation–all of which are characteristic of *Polyrhachis*. Furthermore, Rudolf Kohout, who has access to the considerable collection of Solomons material at the ANIC, has devoted much of his taxonomic efforts towards revising the *Polyrhachis* of the Indo-Australian region (Kohout 1990; 1998; 2006; 2012). Despite these apparent biases, it is somewhat remarkable that with a single exception, the eight distinct *Polyrhachis* lineages that colonized the Solomons (as inferred from their subgeneric classifications) were unable to colonize, or at least persist