Figure 30. Patterns of succession inferred from re-sampling the 2200 plots of the old field chronosequence, E014 (from Foster and Tilman (2000) Plant Ecology).

(A) Relationship between the first multi-dimensional scaling (MDS) axis of floristic composition and field age.

(B) Relationship between the rate of change in the cover of perennial plants (a measure of the rate of succession) and field age for the 22 fields of the old field chronosequence.

(C) A similar analysis, but using Sorenson’s coefficient, which measures the turnover in species composition between the various survey dates. Note that this shows that species turnover is higher in young fields than in older fields, meaning that the rate of change in composition slows as fields age.