

# Low availability of code in ecology: call for urgent action



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Hi. I've heard you looked at the availability of analytical code in ecological research. Sounds interesting! Can you tell me more? 13:46

Sure. Well, the analytical code is now an integral component of most research efforts. For example, it is used to analyse the data, or to run simulations. 13:46 ✓

If code is publicly available (open) than others can easily interpret and check the results, or reuse it in their own research, making science more trusted and effective. 13:46 ✓

Sounds like a proper way of doing science! 13:47

Well, it seems that the adoption of code publication is still quite slow. 13:48 ✓

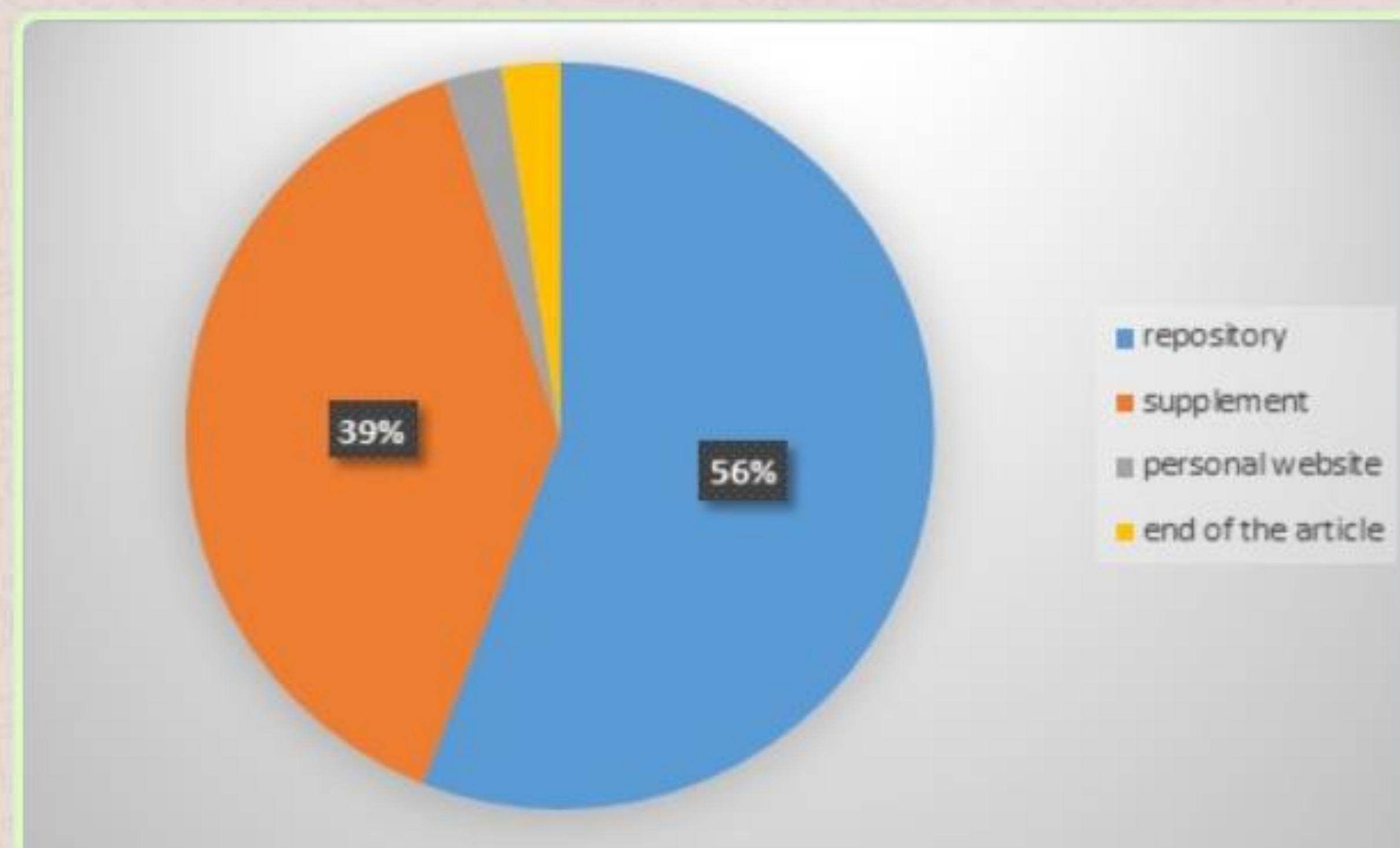
So, what did you do? 13:48

To get an idea on the current state of code in ecology, we've reviewed a sample of 200 ecological studies published under active code sharing policies. 13:48 ✓

What did you find? How much is the code shared? 13:50

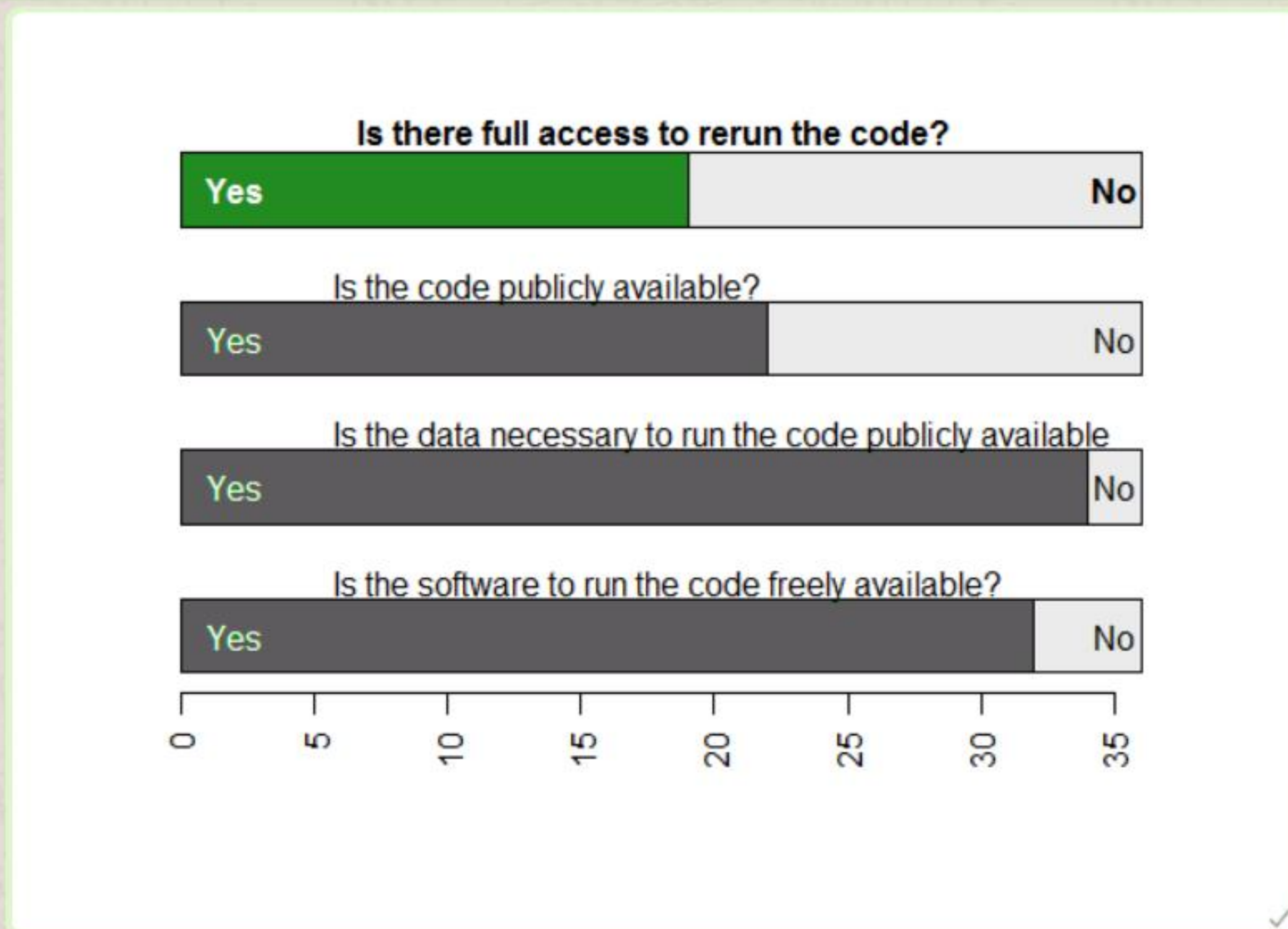
Only 19% of papers published in the journals with a code sharing policy made their code available. 13:52 ✓

That is really low, quite worrying! Where was the code shared (when it was shared)? 13:54



Hm, not the best to share it in the supplement - some of the code won't be accessible (if subscription journal). 14:00

Correct! Here you can see how much of the code was inaccessible, how much was accompanied with the data, and how much was written in a free source software. 14:04 ✓



Was the code referred to somewhere in the paper? 14:06

In 22% of the articles that had analytical code available, there was no mention of this in the text. 14:09 ✓

So, what is next? 14:10

We did this research in 2016, so now we want to see if anything has changed up to now. 14:12 ✓

Cool! How do I stay updated? 14:13

Email me at [antica.culina@nioo.knaw.nl](mailto:antica.culina@nioo.knaw.nl), or follow us on twitter [@antica\\_c](https://twitter.com/antica_c) and [EvansSre](https://twitter.com/EvansSre) 14:15 ✓