1. This should include a description of why the submitted work makes a significant contribution to the research field(s) that fall within the scope of the journal.
2. Why it is of general interest to the readership.
3. Authors must provide a clear statement of how the manuscript builds on previous work both by themselves or your coauthors cited in this manuscript and other published work.
4. Oikos publishes original research and perspectives that have the potential to change or substantially improve our understanding of ecological mechanisms, processes, or patterns in nature. These original perspectives can be generated from new theory and/or concepts, well-designed experiments that test theory or uncover processes, and/or from resounding analyses of ecological patterns. Oikos considers publishing interdisciplinary studies that integrate across ecology and other relevant domains to tackle ecological, environmental, or societal challenges.

**Significance statement**

IGP is ubiquitous in many systems and plays a critical role in food web dynamics, but there is currently a lack of quantitative understanding. This paper aims to address this gap by proposing an experimental framework to estimate the degree of IGP in the field. The framework combines the strengths of controlled feeding trial and stable isotope analysis and thus is more accurate and realistic.

The proposed framework can be applied to various systems and can be used to test hypotheses. Moreover, the framework can be useful for practitioners such as evaluation of the effectiveness of biocontrol agents. Thus, it will serve a dish for both basic and applied ecologists.

The *Forum* in *Oikos* is a place for new ideas and integrative approaches, which I believe this paper possesses and it will certainly facilitate discussion and inspire future work.