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Dear editor,

Please find attached the manuscript *Major interaction reorganizations punctuate the assembly of pollination networks* which we are submitting for consideration as a Letter in *Ecology Letters*.

When a species goes extinct, more than a species is lost. That species interacted with other species in its community, likely in ways that were important or even crucial to others' survival. As the world continues to lose species at an alarming rate, it has become increasingly imperative to aid the recovery of lost interactions and component biodiversity through ecological restoration. We know little, however, about how to re-assemble interacting communities through restoration, or the process of ecological network assembly more generally.

Using extensive surveys of pollinators spanning eight years comprising ~20,000 pollinator visitation records, we explore the assembly of plant-pollinator communities at native plant restorations in the Central Valley of California. Employing newly developed methods for examining temporal changes in networks, we find that species are highly dynamic in their network position, causing community assembly to be punctuated by major interaction reorganizations. The most persistent and generalized species were also the most variable in their network positions, contrary to what is expected through preferential attachment theory — an assembly theory otherwise well-supported in the network literature. Our study is the first long-term study on the temporal assembly of ecological networks. It also challenges the hypothesis that mutualistic systems assemble through preferential attachment (Bascompte and Stouffer, 2009).

Our manuscript is original and was carried out fully by the authors. All authors agree with the contents of the manuscript. This manuscript is not published, nor is it in consideration for publication elsewhere. All research not of the authors' is fully acknowledged. The authors declare no conflict of interest. All appropriate ethical standards were followed. Thank you for reviewing our manuscript and we hope you will find it suitable for publication.

Regards, Lauren C. Ponisio, PhD
Claire Kremen, Professor