



Universitat
de les Illes Balears

DOCTORAL THESIS
2024

**Theoretical and data-driven models in
Ecology**

Àlex Giménez Romero



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de les Illes Balears

DOCTORAL THESIS 2024

Doctoral programme in Physics

Theoretical and data-driven models in Ecology

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Thesis Tutor: Cristóbal López Sánchez

Doctor by the Universitat de les Illes Balears

Supervisors:
Manuel Matías

Àlex Giménez Romero.
Theoretical and data-driven models in Ecology. ©
Palma de Mallorca, July 2024

A en Manuel Miranda
pel seu suport i ajuda
durant tots aquests anys.
Sempre estaràs amb mi.
i recordare sempre
el que em vas ensenyar.

Dr Manuel A. Matías of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)

I DECLARE:

That the thesis title *Theoretical and data-driven models in Ecology*, presented by Àlex Giménez Romero to obtain a doctoral degree, has been completed under my supervision and meets the requirements to opt for an International Doctorate.

For all intents and purposes, I hereby sign this document.

Signature

Dr. Manuel A. Matías
Thesis Supervisor

Palma de Mallorca, July 2024

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements go here.

Resum

El resum va aquí.

Resumen

El resumen va aquí.

Abstract

Abstract goes here.

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List of publications

1. Àlex Giménez-Romero, Rosa Flaquer-Galmés, and Manuel A. Matías. "Vector-borne diseases with nonstationary vector populations: The case of growing and decaying populations". In: *Phys. Rev. E* 106 (5 Nov. 2022), page 054402. DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevE.106.054402](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevE.106.054402). URL: <https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevE.106.054402>
2. Alex Giménez-Romero et al. "Global predictions for the risk of establishment of Pierce's disease of grapevines". In: *Communications Biology* 5.1 (Dec. 2022), page 1389. ISSN: 2399-3642. DOI: [10.1038/s42003-022-04358-w](https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-04358-w). URL: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-04358-w>
3. Àlex Giménez-Romero, Eduardo Moralejo, and Manuel A. Matías. "A Compartmental Model for *Xylella fastidiosa* Diseases with Explicit Vector Seasonal Dynamics". In: *Phytopathology®* 113.9 (2023). PMID: 36774557, pages 1686–1696. DOI: [10.1094/PHYTO-11-22-0428-V](https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-11-22-0428-V). eprint: <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-11-22-0428-V>. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-11-22-0428-V>
4. Clara Lago et al. "Degree-day-based model to predict egg hatching of *Philaenus spumarius* (Hemiptera: Aphrophoridae), the main vector of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Europe". In: *Environmental Entomology* 52.3 (Apr. 2023), pages 350–359. ISSN: 0046-225X. DOI: [10.1093/ee/nvad013](https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvad013). eprint: <https://academic.oup.com/ee/article-pdf/52/3/350/50615564/nvad013.pdf>. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvad013>
5. Idealista spatial segmentation of the real state market



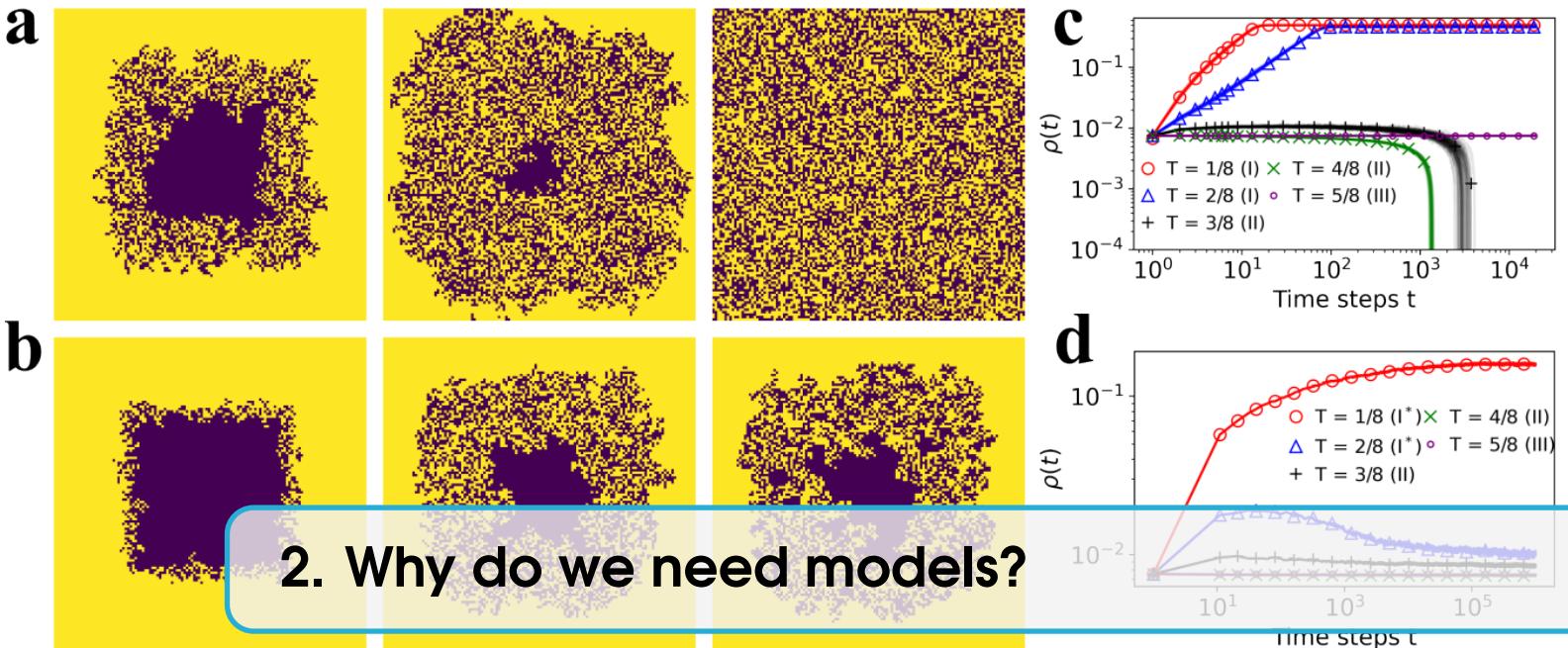
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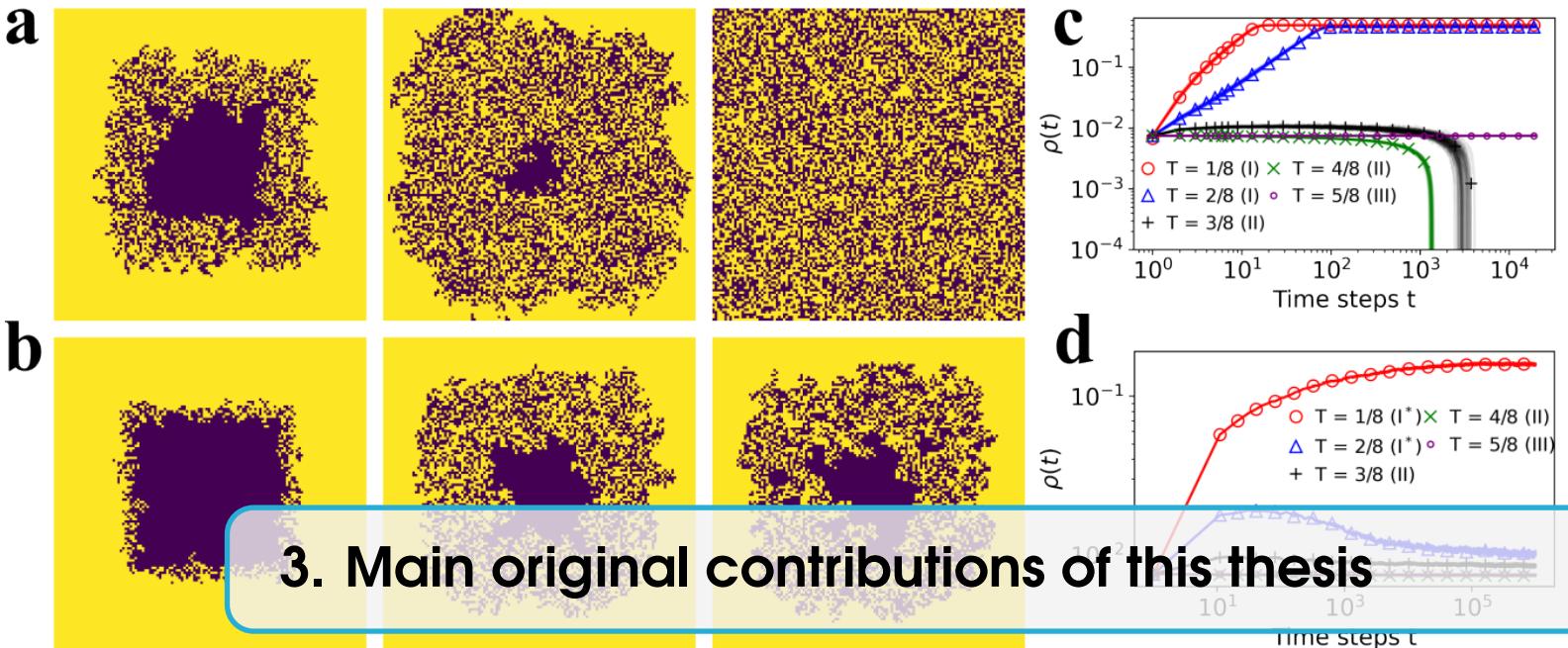


1. The global biodiversity crisis

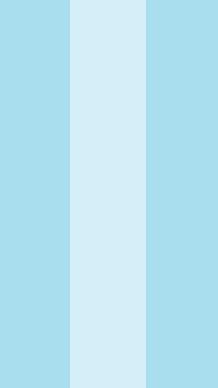




2. Why do we need models?

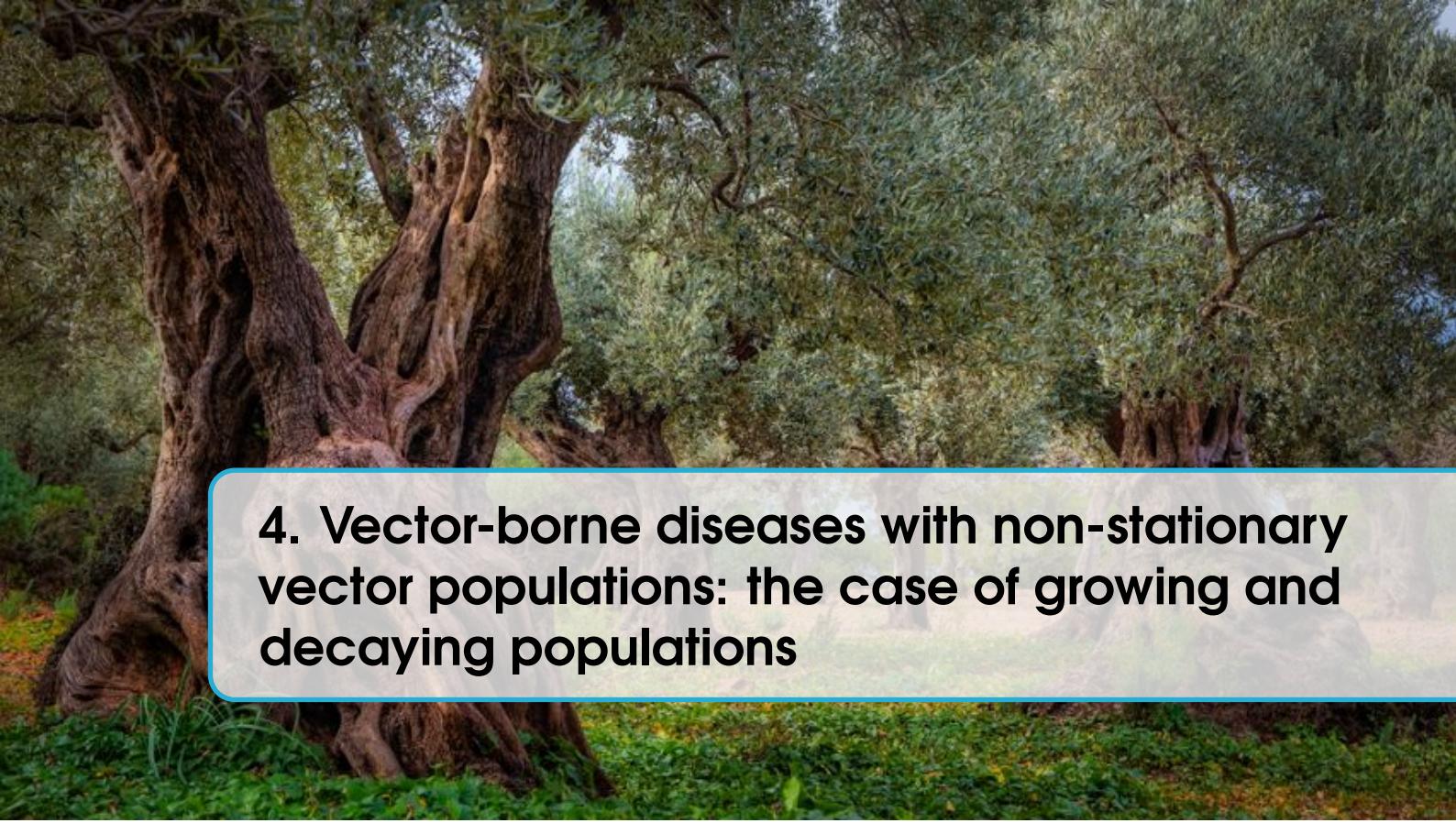


3. Main original contributions of this thesis

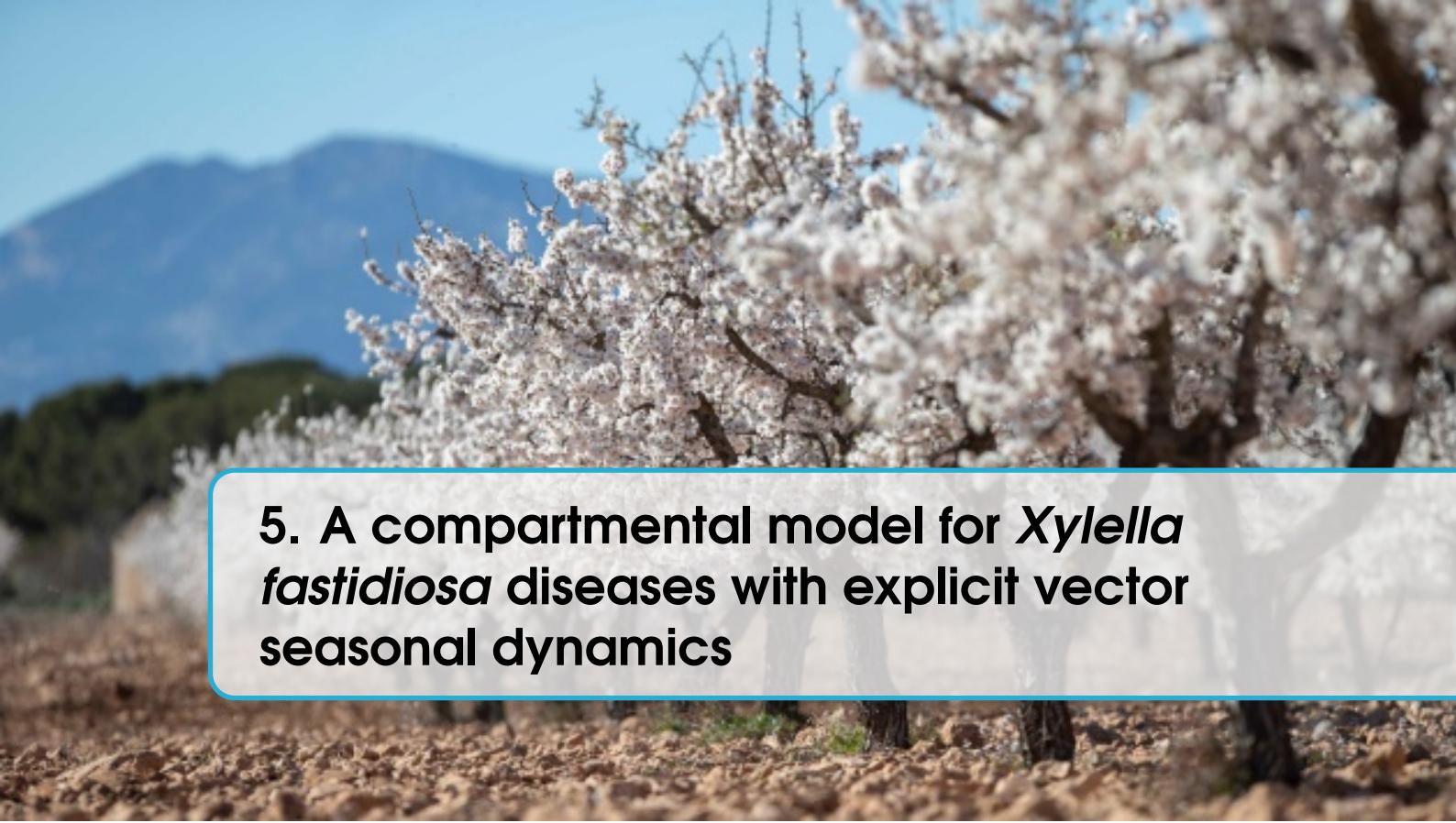


Realistic models for vector-borne plant diseases

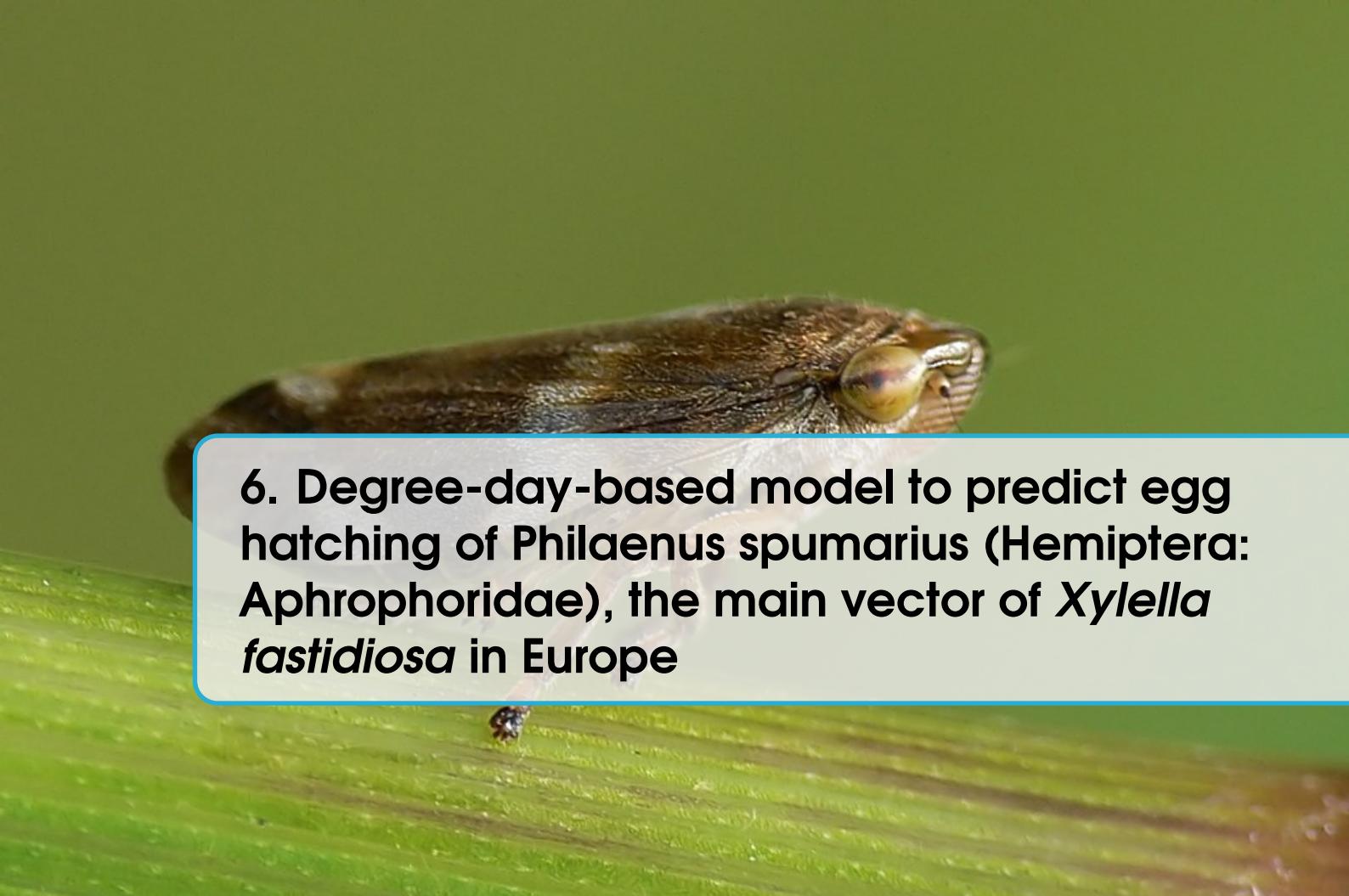
- 4 Vector-borne diseases with non-stationary vector populations: the case of growing and decaying populations 27
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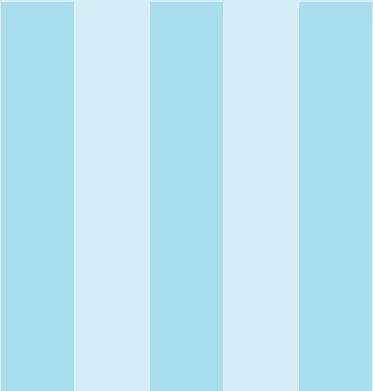
4. Vector-borne diseases with non-stationary vector populations: the case of growing and decaying populations



5. A compartmental model for *Xylella fastidiosa* diseases with explicit vector seasonal dynamics

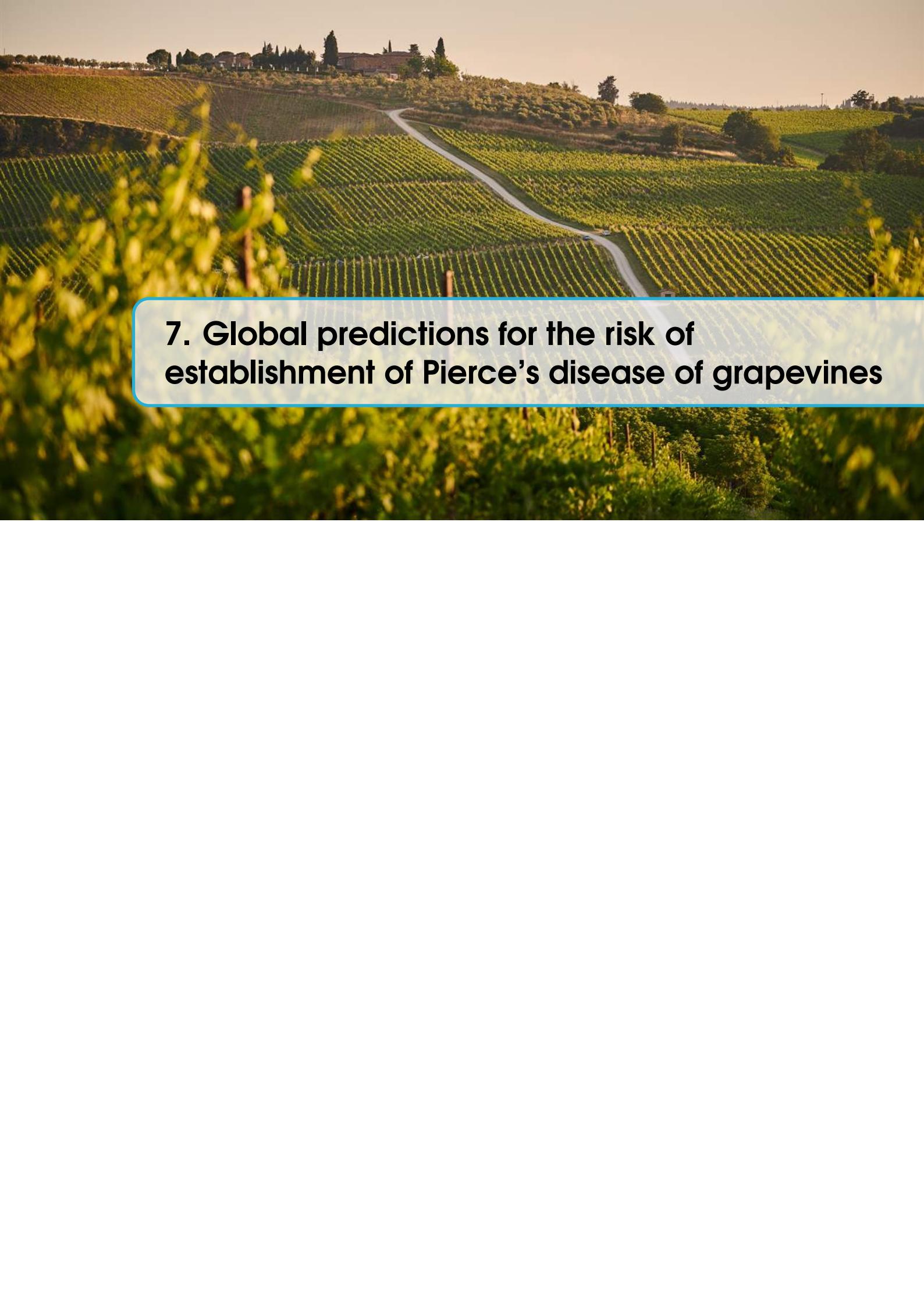


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Modelling the risk of vector-borne plant diseases

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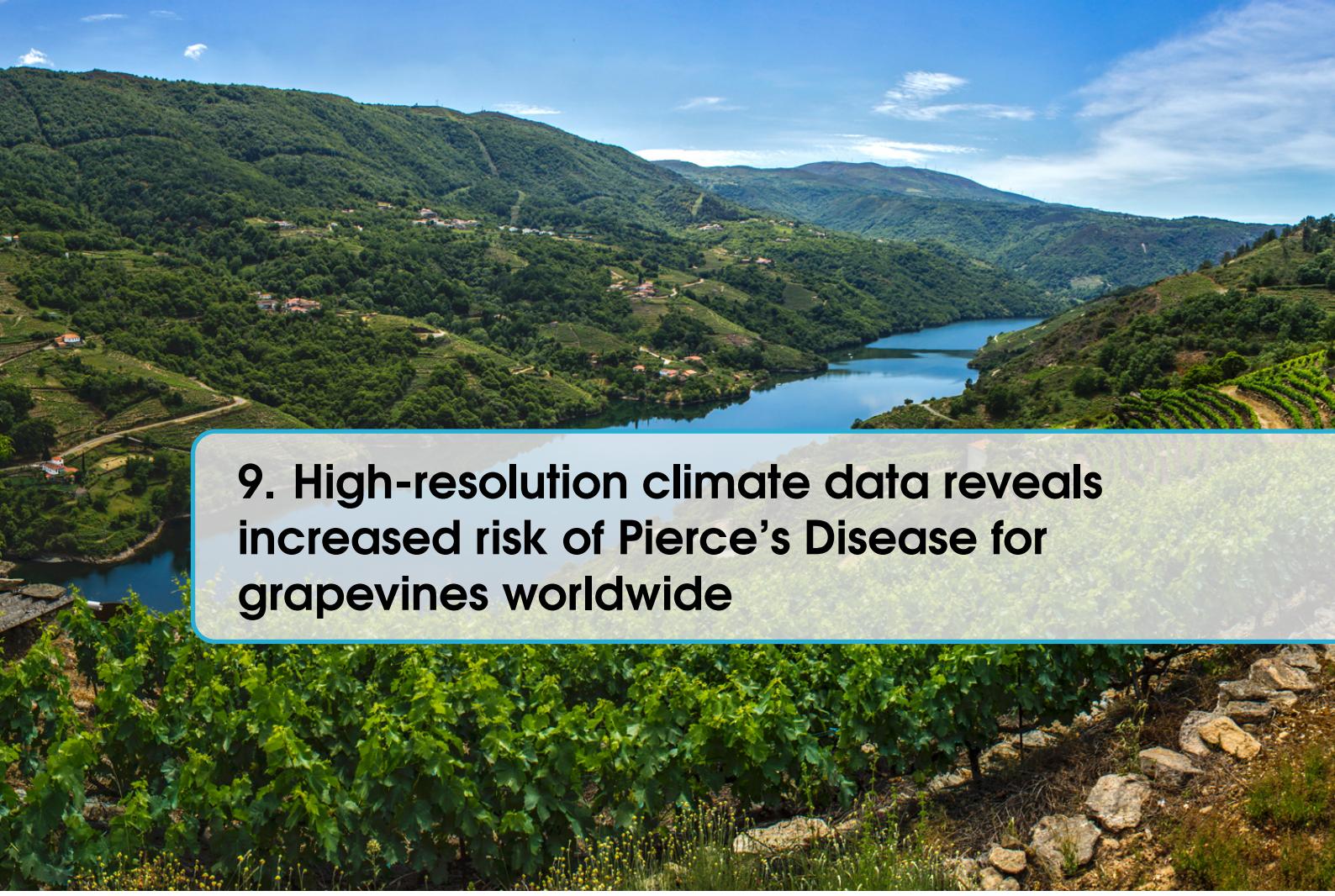


A wide-angle photograph of a vineyard landscape. The foreground is filled with the green, leafy tops of grapevines, their rows forming a grid pattern across the hillside. In the middle ground, a winding road cuts through the vines, leading towards a cluster of buildings and trees on a higher hill. The sky is a clear, pale yellow, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and rural.

7. Global predictions for the risk of establishment of Pierce's disease of grapevines



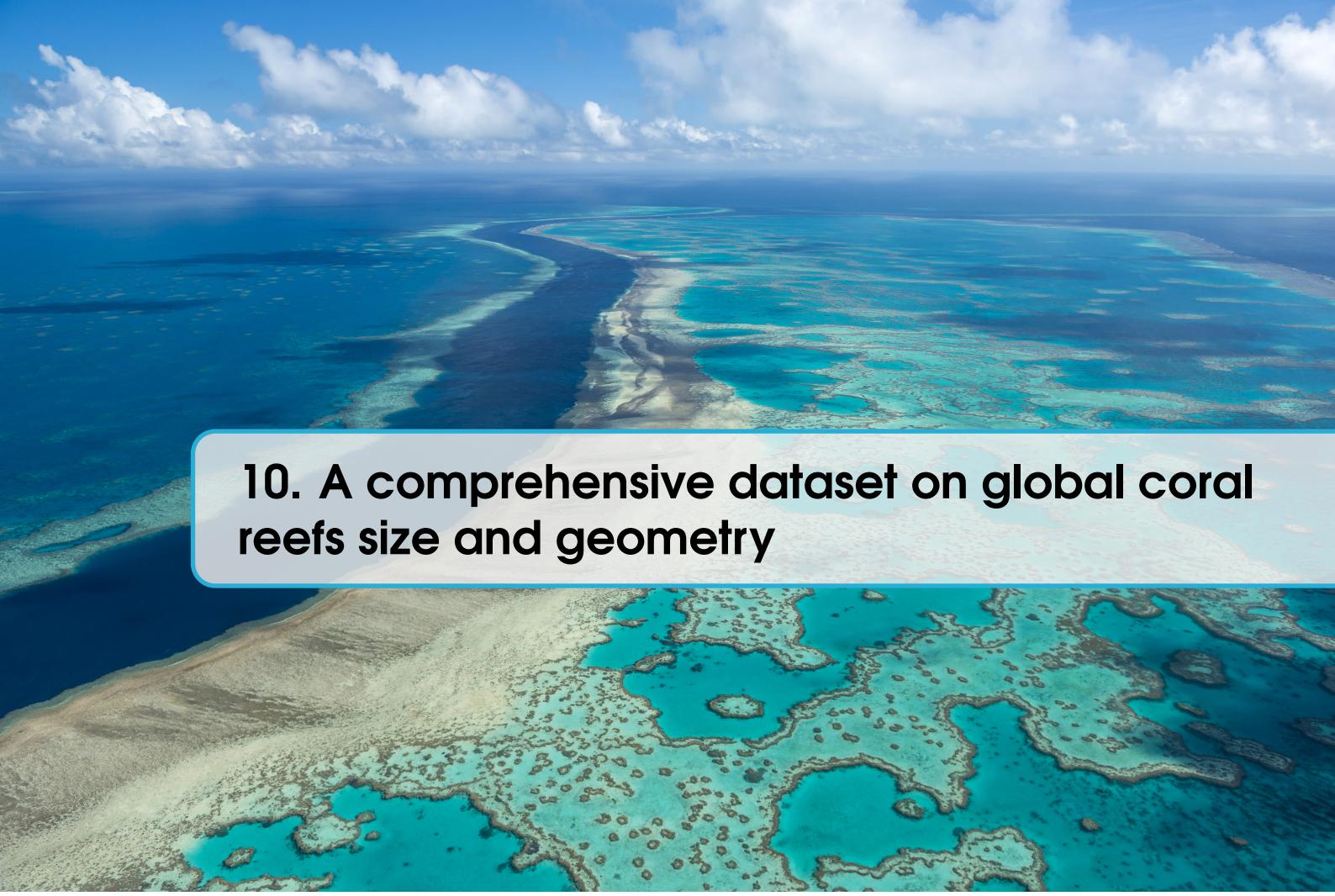
8. Global warming significantly increases the risk of Pierce's disease epidemics in European vineyards



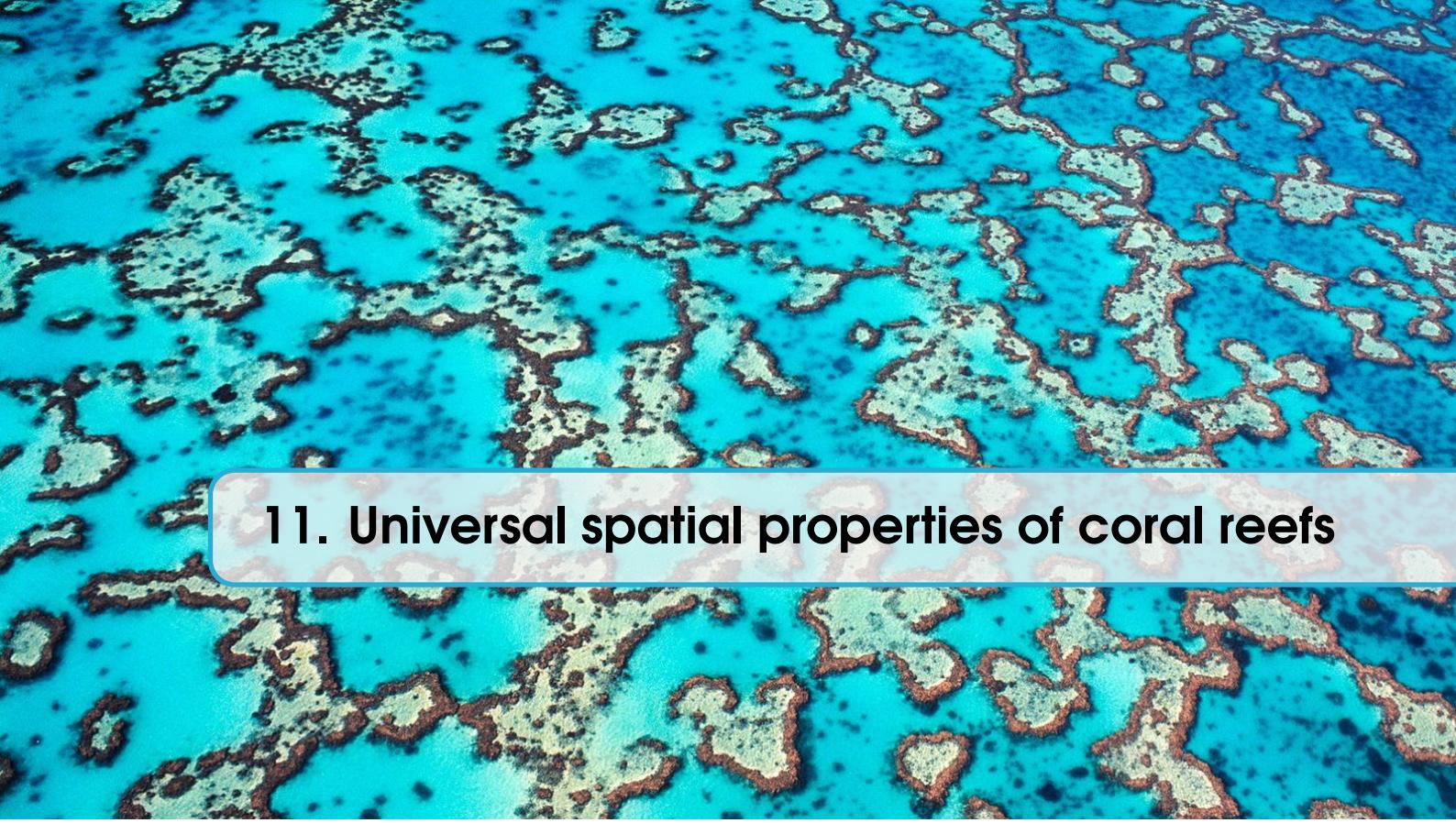
9. High-resolution climate data reveals increased risk of Pierce's Disease for grapevines worldwide

IV Data-driven methods for global ecological problems

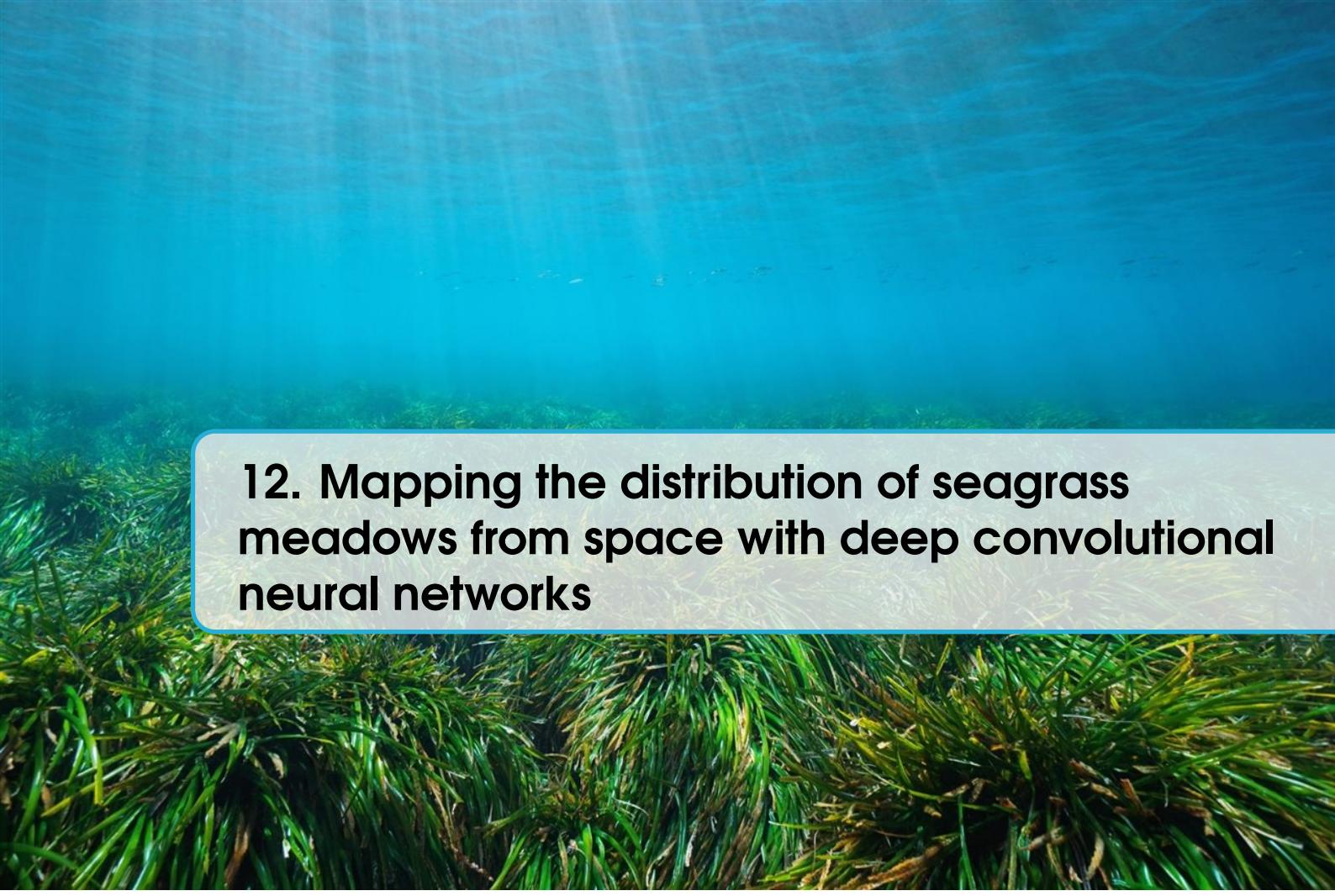
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10. A comprehensive dataset on global coral reefs size and geometry



11. Universal spatial properties of coral reefs

A photograph of a seagrass meadow underwater. The dense, green, blade-like leaves of the seagrass grow in patches across the sandy ocean floor. The water is clear, allowing light to penetrate and illuminate the plants. The background shows more of the seagrass extending towards the horizon.

12. Mapping the distribution of seagrass meadows from space with deep convolutional neural networks

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- [1] Alex Giménez-Romero et al. “Global predictions for the risk of establishment of Pierce’s disease of grapevines”. In: *Communications Biology* 5.1 (Dec. 2022), page 1389. ISSN: 2399-3642. DOI: [10.1038/s42003-022-04358-w](https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-04358-w). URL: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-04358-w> (cited on page 15).
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