American Naturalist Press Release:

\*They should be short, approximately 200 to 300 words.

\*There should be a compelling headline or hook, but one that fits with the subject at hand—be wary of non sequiturs or over-anthropomorphizing.

\*Reveal some of the most interesting things at the start.

\*Use the third person (they/he/she, not I/we).

\*Use the active voice and the present tense.

\*Use everyday language or explain the terms.

\*The paragraph should answer at least some of the following questions:

    - Who (is involved/did the research)?

    - What (is new about this research)?

    - When (did the research take place)?

    - Where (where is the field site/where is the research being conducted)?

    - Why (do we care)?

* How (will it matter)?

New insights from old models: mechanistic competition models show a strong link between stable coexistence and indirect effects of global change.

It’s not easy to predict how humanity’s growing influence on ecosystems will impact the abundance of any particular species. Global warming and nitrogen deposition, for instance, can act directly upon species by changing their growth, survival and reproduction but might also act indirectly by changing the abundance of competing species. This indirect effect driven by competition can change the net outcome of global change from what would be expected from a single species model.

Andrew Kleinhesselink and Peter Adler show that the strength of these indirect effects should be closely related to the stability of coexistence between competitors. By investigating simple resource competition models, they show that the same factors that lead to stable coexistence make indirect effects weak. Simply put, indirect effects result when species are similar in terms of their resource use niche, but have some difference in how they respond to the effects of global change. More studies that quantify the stability of coexistence between competitors in natural communities should have the added benefit of also providing insight into the magnitude of indirect effects that can be expected from global change.