**Full Title**

Does Semi-Natural Habitat Amplify Beneficial Spider Populations in a California Organic Vineyard?

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**Conclusion**

We conclude that, for a California Central Coast organic vineyard, SNH dominated by mature oak trees promotes populations of the generalist spiders *Thomisidae* beyond the first 15 meters of the transect. This result suggests that producers could consider reinforcing SNH effects by emphasizing under-trellis cover crop strategies for the initial 15 meters of the rows.

**Introduction**

* Researchers have examined the role of the “field margin” as a source of insects that could control vineyard pests (Altieri 2005, Hogg 2010, Hogg 2018, Nichols 2001, Ponti 2005, Thomson 2009, Wilson 2015).
* However, the general response of agricultural systems to the composition of surrounding landscape is inconsistent (Karp 2018).
* Purpose: to develop some insight into spatial and temporal patterns of beneficial insect penetration of organic vineyard rows supported by semi-natural habitat typical of the California Central Coast.
* Assume the effect is strongest at the SNH vineyard edge
* Assume the effect persists throughout the growing season

**Methods**

* Ampelos Vineyards : central coast oak savanna, biodynamic / organic operations
* Vane traps suspended in the fruit zone
* 2 transects with 30 traps each extending 100 m into the vineyard center
* Morning and evening sampling, 3X per week

**Discussion**

* **Insect Diversity and Abundance in the Canopy**
* **Crab Spider Abundance and Composition**
* **Crab Spider Spatial Distribution**
* **Crab Spider Population Clusters and Seasonal Presence**
* **The Plausibility of SNH Influencing Crab Spider Populations**