Challenging data with theory to predict phenological mismatch with climate change

REVIEWS:

17th October 2019  
  
Dear Heather,  
  
Your manuscript entitled "Trophic phenological mismatch: Disconnects between underlying ecological theory and climate change responses" has now been seen by 3 referees. You will see from their attached comments that while they find your Review Article article of interest, they have raised points that need to be addressed before we can make a decision on publication.   
  
In particular, Reviewer 3 raises a number of concerns regarding the interpretation of the Cushing hypothesis and how this affects testing it. Reviewer 1 also asks for discussion of cases that do not meet the criteria of the framework you outline. We will need to consider your response to these concerns in the form of a revised manuscript, accompanied by a separate list to explain your revisions.  
  
A separate point-by-point response to ALL of the concerns raised by the referees should be included with the revised manuscript, in each case describing what changes have been made to the manuscript or, alternatively, if no action has been taken, providing a compelling argument for why that is the case.   
  
In addition to these concerns, please note the following editorial points:  
  
TITLE  
Nature Climate Change titles should give a sense of the main new findings of a manuscript, and should not contain punctuation. Please keep in mind that we strongly discourage active verbs in titles, and that they should ideally fit within 90 characters each (including spaces).   
  
HEADINGS   
Please note that first-level headings cannot exceed 60 characters.  
  
ABSTRACT  
The abstract - which should be 100-150 words long and contain no references - should serve as a general introduction to the topic, underscoring the importance and relevance of a particular area, and as a brief guide to the coverage of the Review Article article. Because we hope that researchers across the climate community will be interested in our Review Article articles, the abstract should be as accessible as possible, explaining essential but specialised terms concisely. We encourage you to show your abstract to colleagues outside of your direct field of expertise to uncover any problematic concepts.  
  
MAIN TEXT  
The word limit for Review Article published in Nature Climate Change is 5,000 words (excluding the abstract) and so we ask you to ensure that the length does not exceed this when responding to reviewer comments.  
  
Importantly, although we recognize that each discipline has its own established terminology, one of the goals of Nature Climate Change is to make its articles accessible to the wider climate research community. Without compromising the scientific content and discussion of your manuscript, we would ask you to bear this in mind when preparing the revised version of your manuscript to ensure that it is as accessible as possible to non-specialist readers. If very technical concerns are essential to the Review Article article, these may be presented in a separate box.  
  
FIGURES   
A Nature Climate Change Review Article may contain up to 6 display items (figures or tables) not including a limited number of numbered mathematical equations if necessary; these should be supplied separately from the main text.  
  
If your figures contain several parts, the parts should be labelled lower case a, b, and so on, and form a neat rectangle when assembled. For detailed instructions, see our Guide to Authors at [http://www.nature.com/nclimate/authors/gta/index.html](http://www.nature.com/nclimate/authors/gta/index.html" \t "_blank)  
  
Each figure caption should start with a brief introductory sentence to describe the figure as a whole, before going on to describe each panel of the figure (labelled a, b, c, etc.) in more detail, including any symbols that are used. The caption for each figure should not exceed 200 words. Figure captions should be detailed enough so that each figure with its associated caption can, as much as possible, be understood in isolation from the main text.  
  
REFERENCES   
As a guideline, Nature Climate Change Review Article allow up to 100 references.  
  
Please note that Nature Climate Change uses standard Nature referencing style, i.e., - all authors should be included in reference lists unless there are more than five, in which case only the first author should be given, followed by 'et al.'. Authors should be listed last name first, followed by a comma and initials of given names. There should be no spaces between initials. Article titles should be in Roman text and book titles in italics; the first word of the title is capitalized, the title written exactly as it appears in the work cited, ending with a period. Journal names are italicized and abbreviated (with periods) according to common usage; refer to Index Medicus for details. Volume numbers appear in bold. Please correct the format of your references as necessary.  
  
References are numbered sequentially as they appear in the text, tables and figure legends. Only one publication is given for each number.   
  
Only papers that have been published or accepted by a named publication should be in the numbered list; preprints of accepted papers in the reference list should be submitted with the manuscript. Meeting abstracts and submitted manuscripts should be mentioned in the text with a list of authors (or initials if any of the authors are co-authors of the present contribution). ublished conference abstracts and URLs for web sites should be cited parenthetically in the text, not in the reference list.   
  
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