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Editorial Board

Current Research in Insect Science

Dear Editors,

We are submitting an original research paper entitled “Shrubs as magnets for pollination: a test of facilitation and reciprocity in an established shrub-annual system” by Ally Ruttan, Christopher Lortie, and Stephanie Haas. We examine shrubs as magnet species for pollination and the propose the double magnet hypothesis in which the floral understory of shrubs in turn act as magnets for pollinators.

Shrubs commonly facilitate desert annuals and animals in a variety of ways; however, the question of whether shrubs can increase the pollination of their understory has not yet been answered. In this study we examine the effects of both an insect-pollinated shrub and wind-pollinated shrub on the pollinator visitation and visit duration to an annual insect-pollinated phytometer species. Additionally, we examined the bidirectional effect of flowering annuals on the pollination of an animal-pollinated shrub. This work increases the body of literature that tests the magnet hypothesis while uniquely adding both the concept of a non-flowering plant as a possible pollinator magnet and a first test of the double-magnet hypothesis. This work also significantly advances facilitation theory in deserts by adding pollination facilitation as an additional mechanism. We are confident that this is a novel synthesis ideal for Current Research in Insect Science because it examines the function of plants as insect attractants both in terms of floral resources and possible refuge or habitat. We further show how foundation species such as shrubs not only impact other plants, but also influence insect choice and foraging.

This study has not been published or submitted elsewhere. We confirm that all authors have read and approved the manuscript and have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steph Haas, Christopher Lortie, and Ally Ruttan

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