

# INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY ECOLOGY I



The background of the image is a dark, monochromatic blue, representing a vast expanse of water or a deep sky. The surface has subtle, fine-grained texture and slight variations in tone, suggesting a calm sea or a clear, slightly overcast day. There are no other elements, such as clouds, boats, or people, present in the background.

# ART GALLERY



Natalie



Daniel

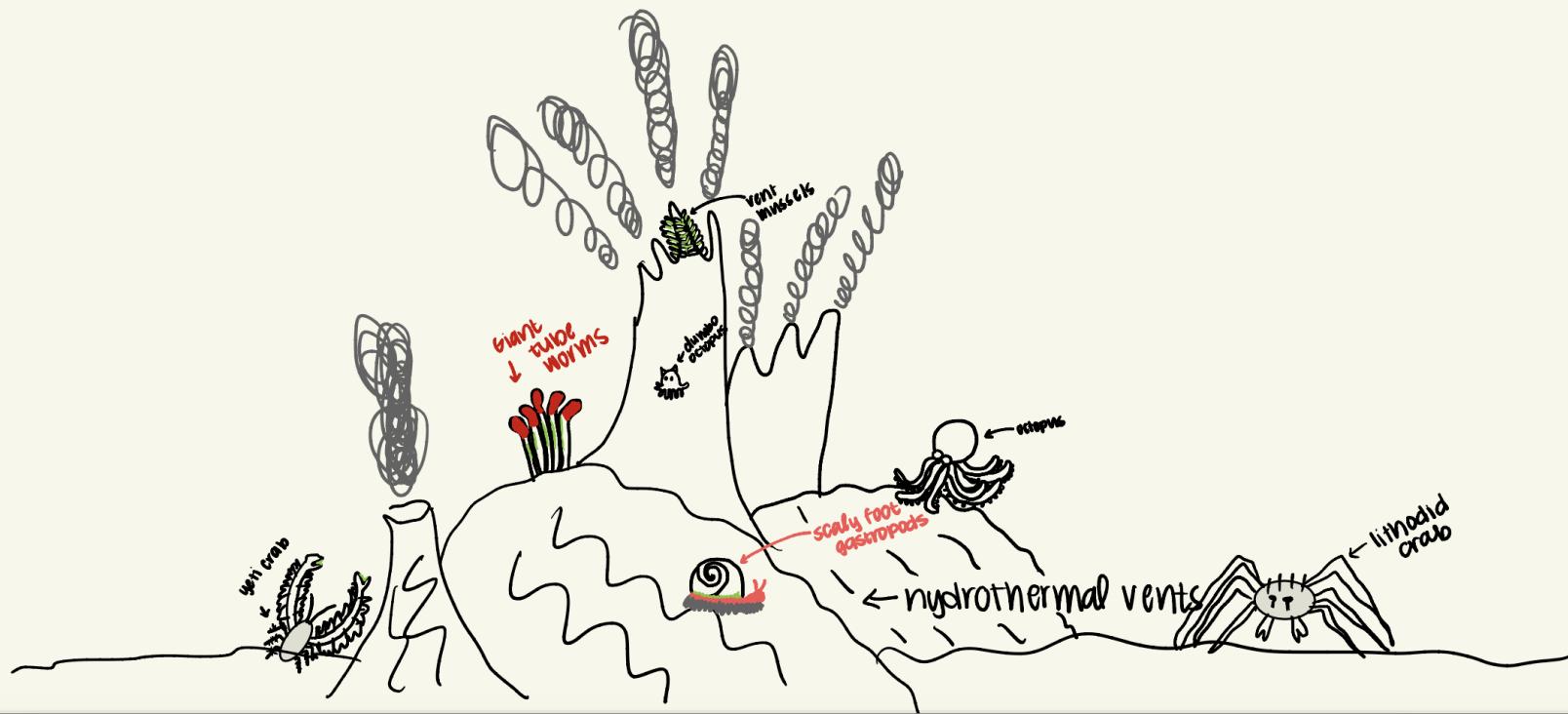


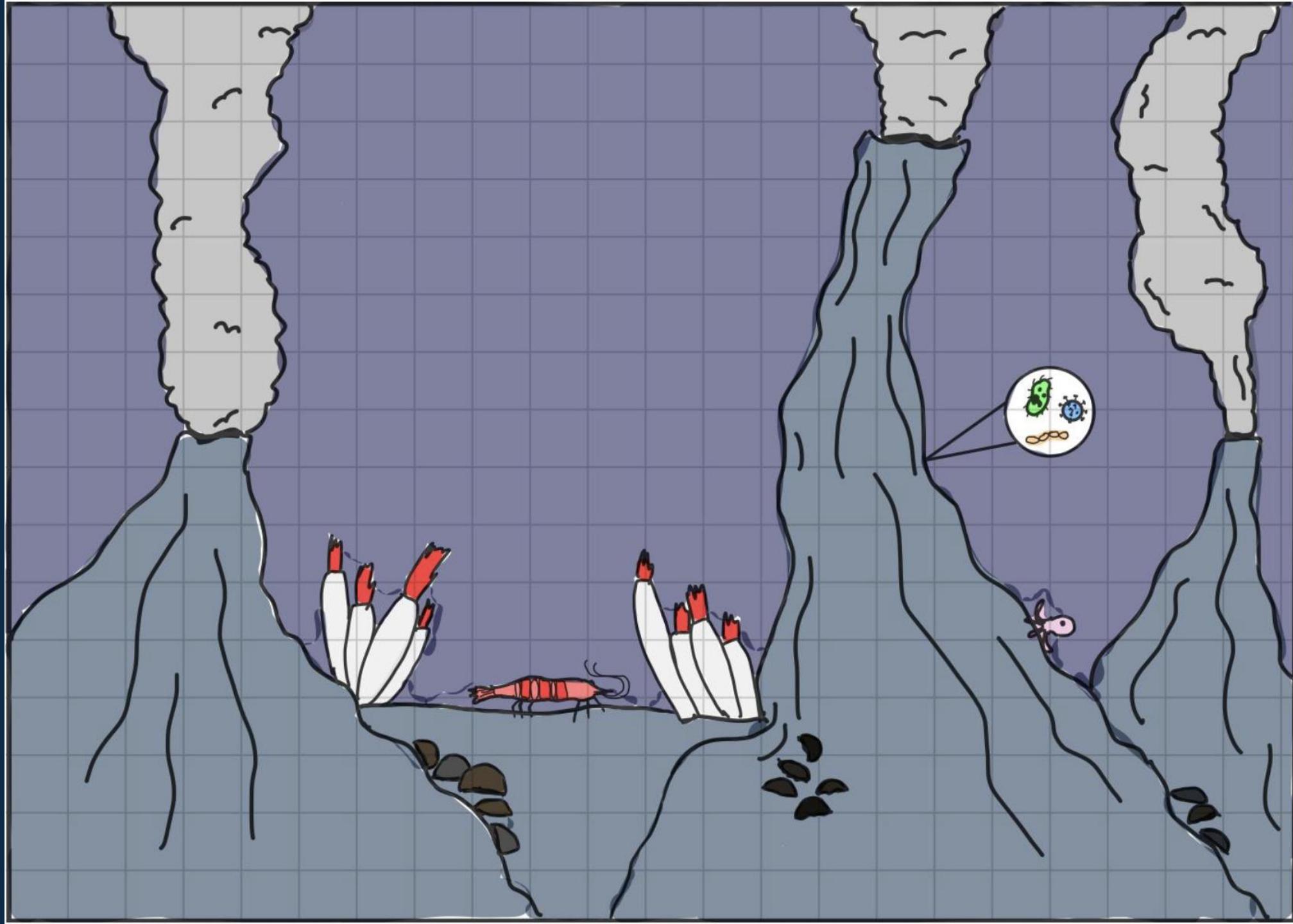
Bailey



Izzy

# Deep Sea Vents Community

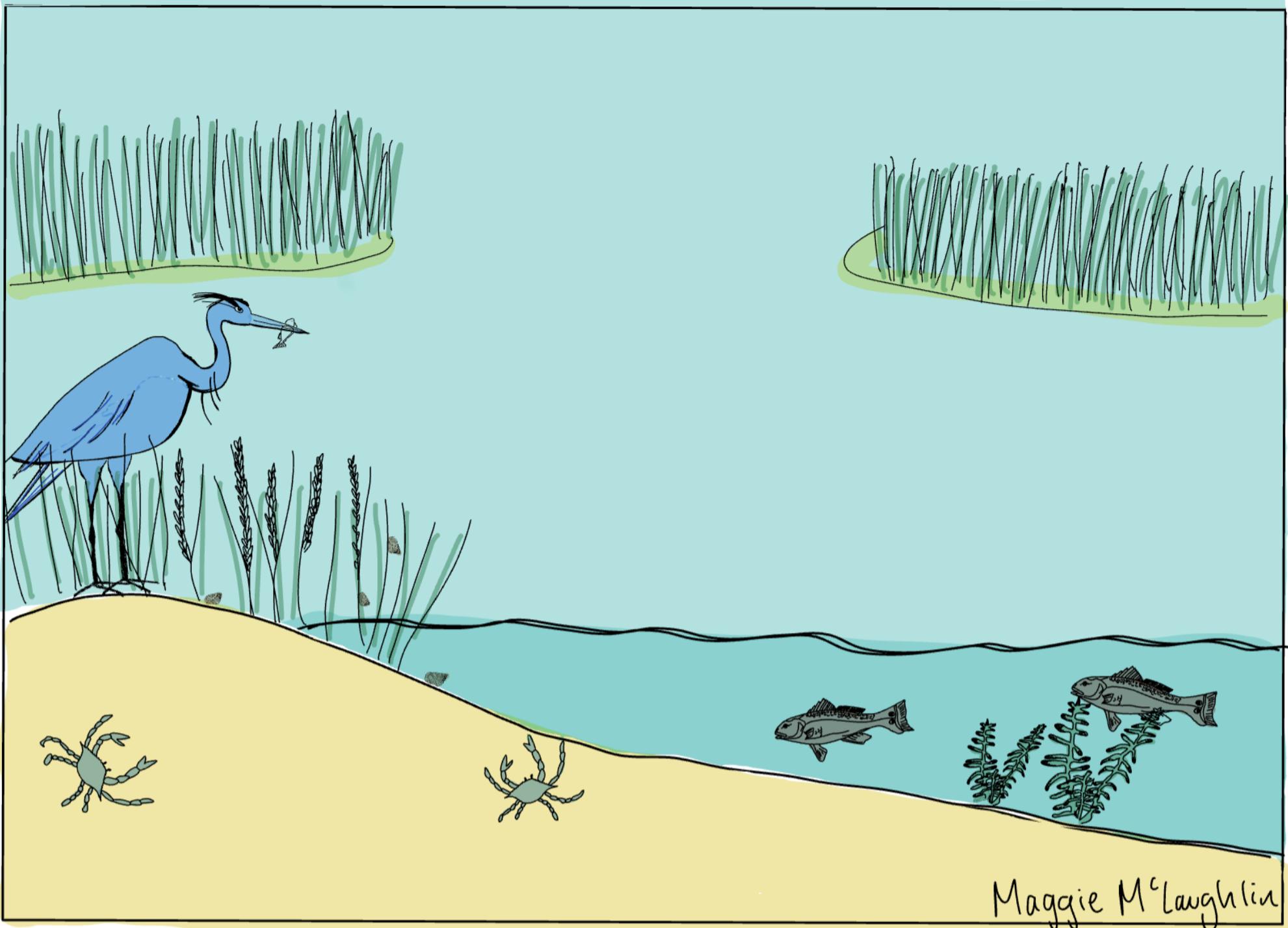




Payton



Lauren



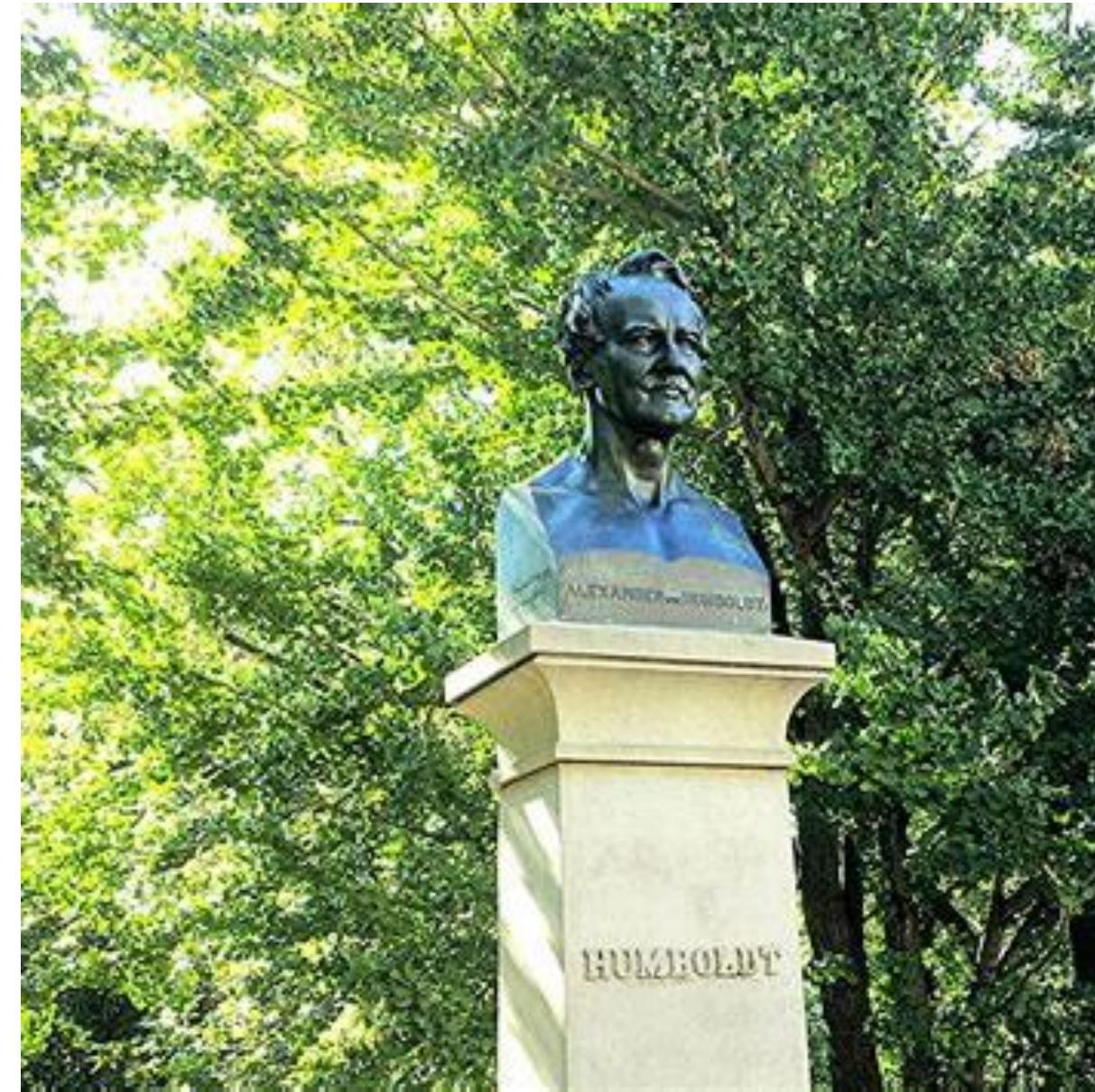
Maggie McLaughlin

Maggie

# LA-01 CHANNEL



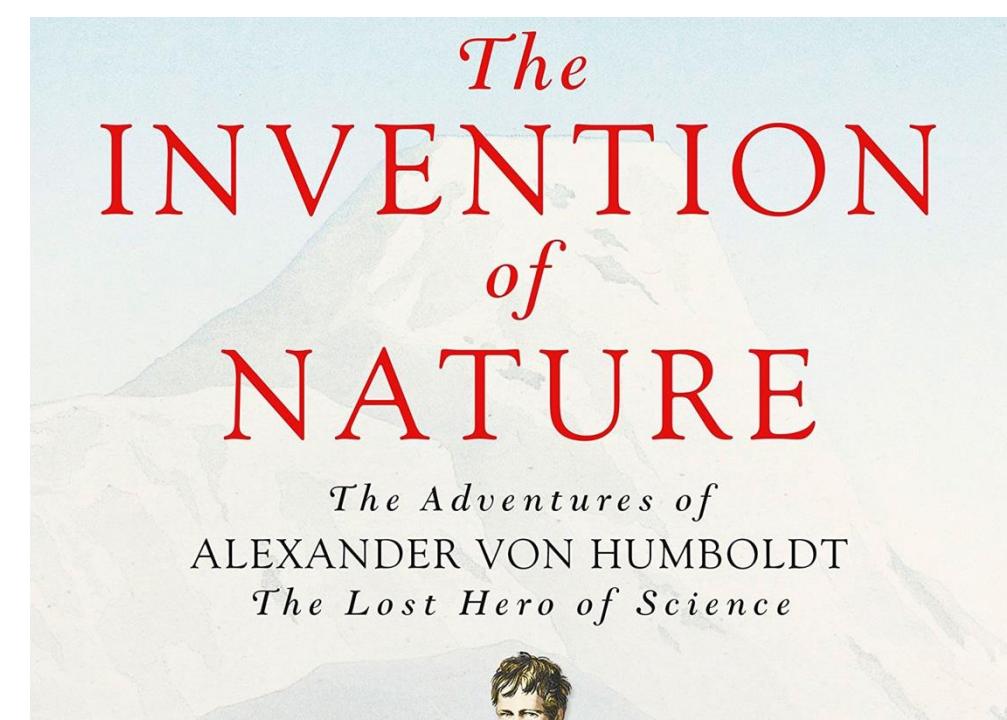
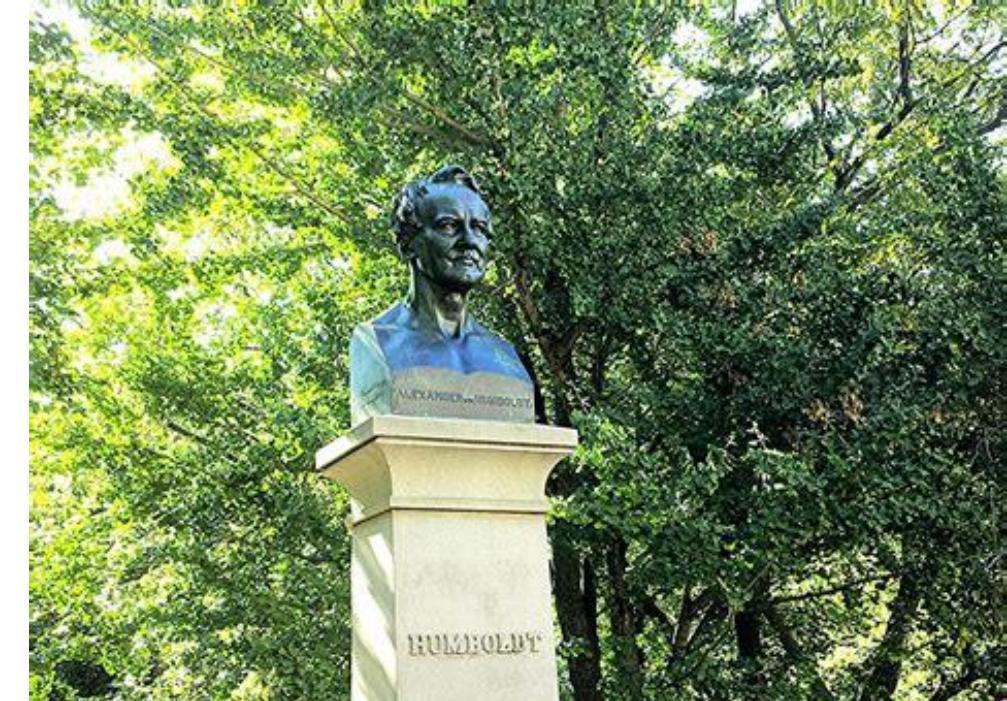












“...physics, geology, earth science, botany, geography, zoology,  
climatology, oceanography, and astronomy”

“Everything is connected”



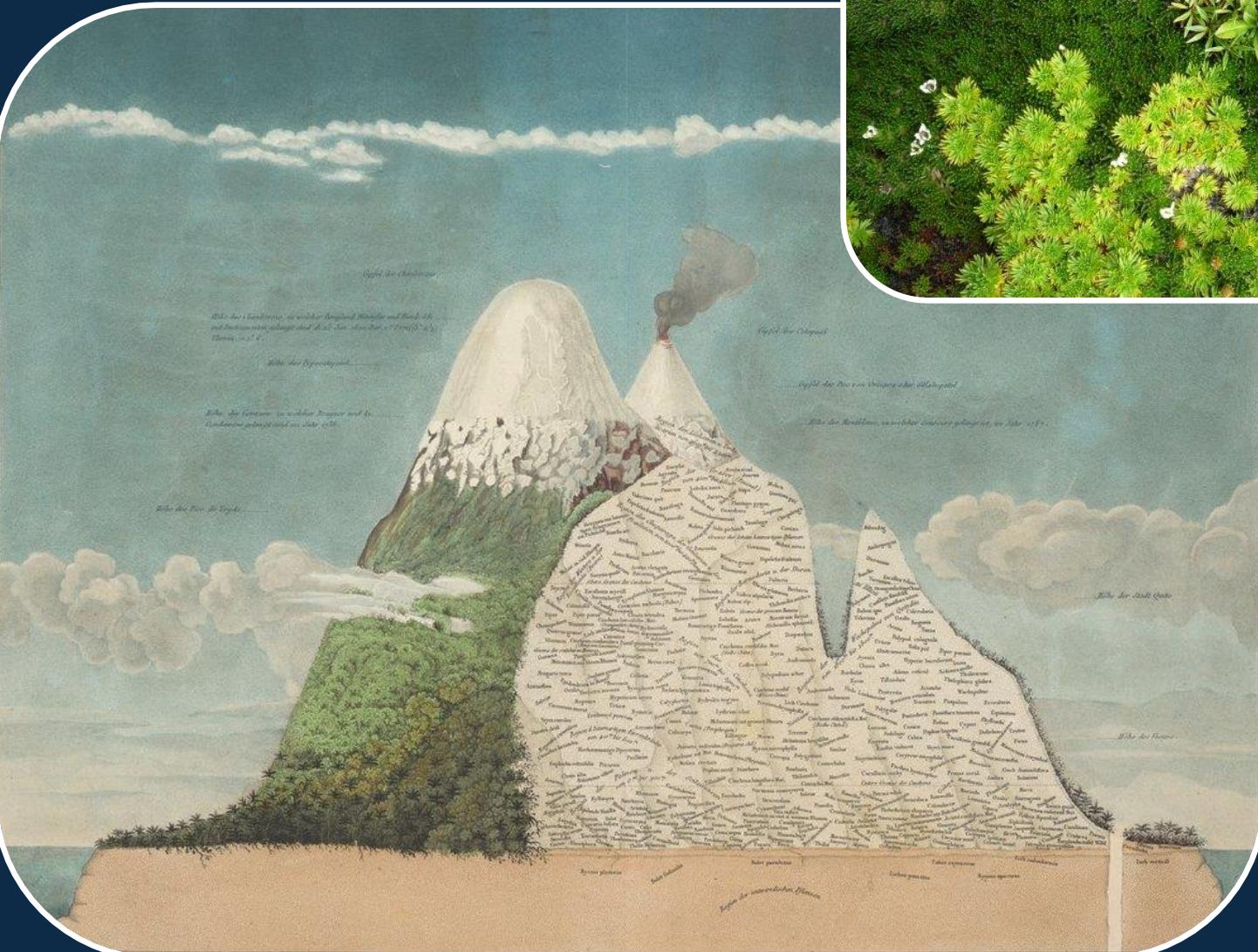
# What is a community?

Plant01 Plant02  
Plant03

Plant04 Plant05  
Plant06

Plant07 Plant08  
Plant09

Plant10 Plant11  
Plant12



Local



Regional



Global





# QUANTIFYING ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES



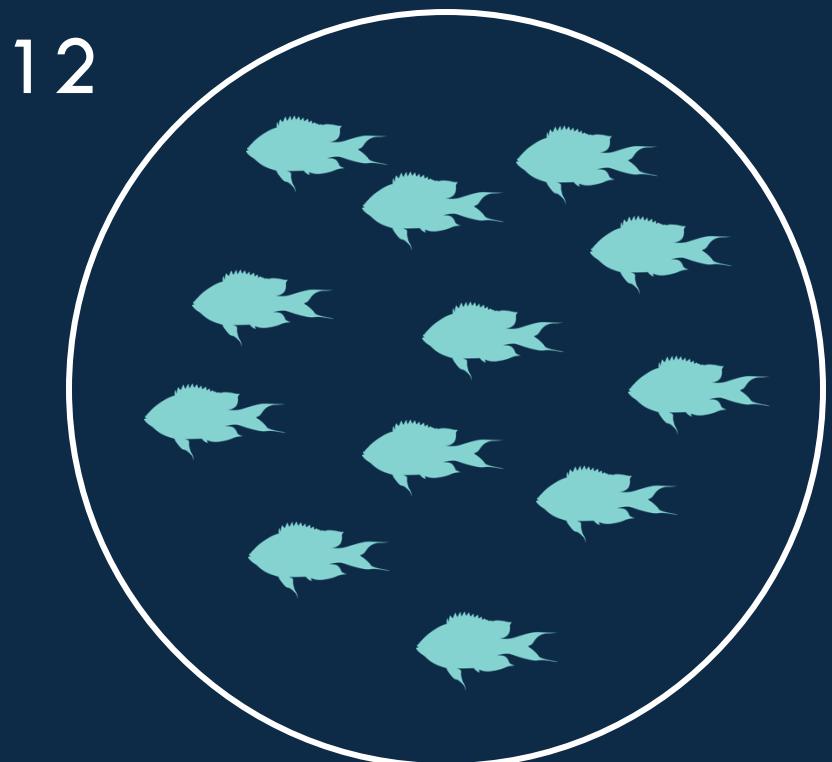
Tane Sinclair-Taylor  
Expedition Photographer



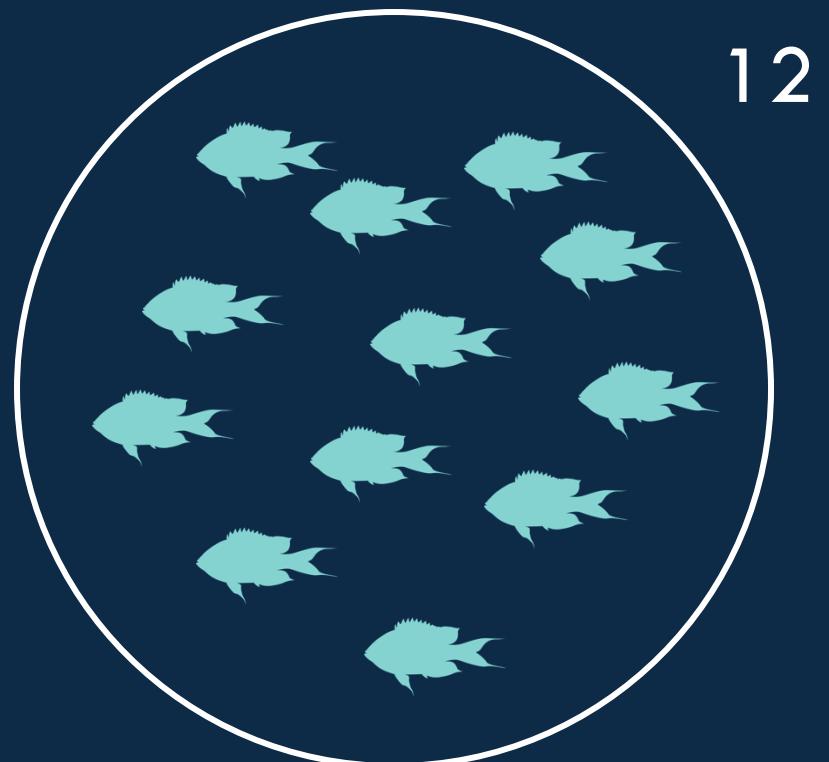
Tane Sinclair-Taylor  
Expedition Photographer

# First order properties: single communities

Community 1



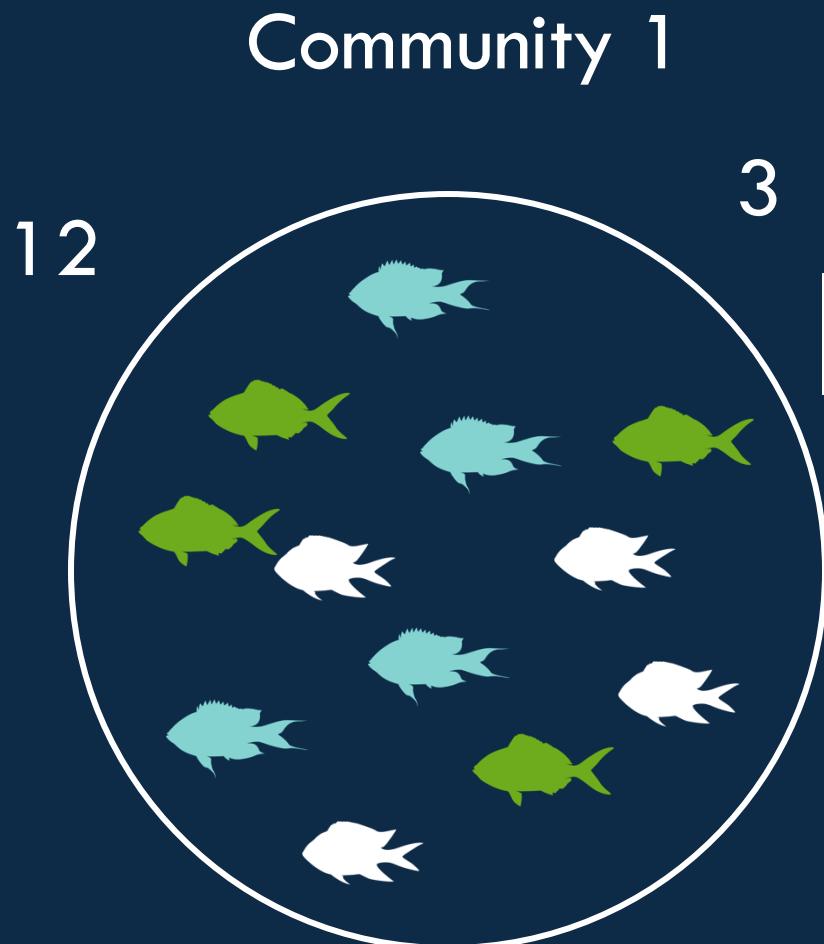
Community 2



ABUNDANCE

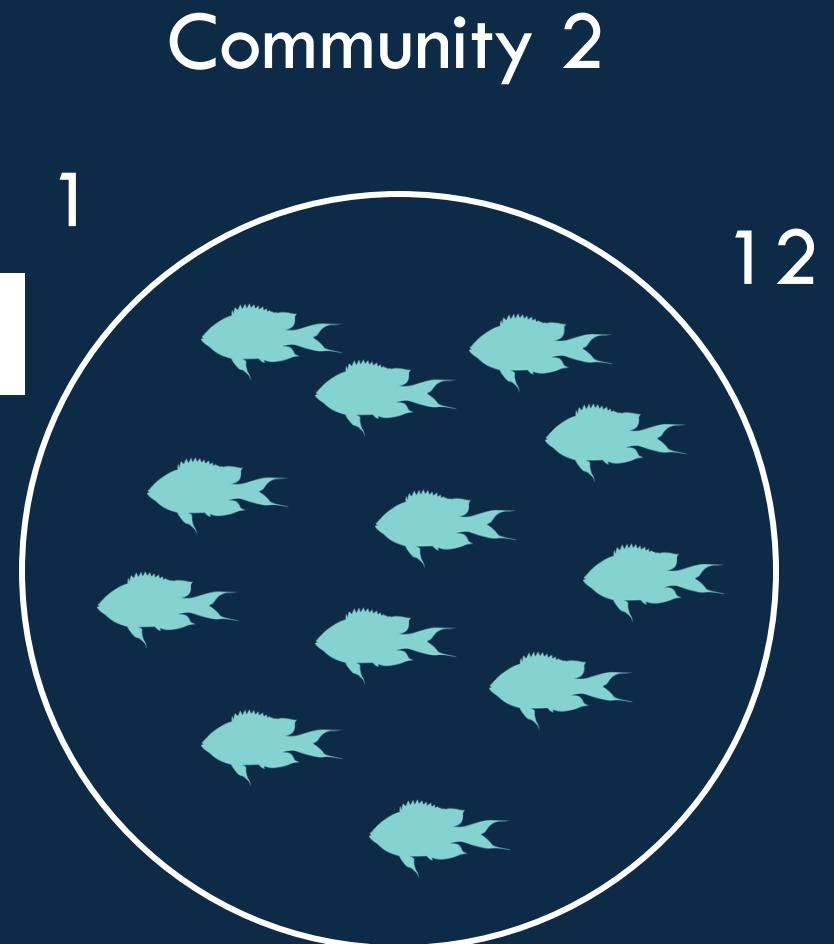
ALWAYS integers

# First order properties: single communities



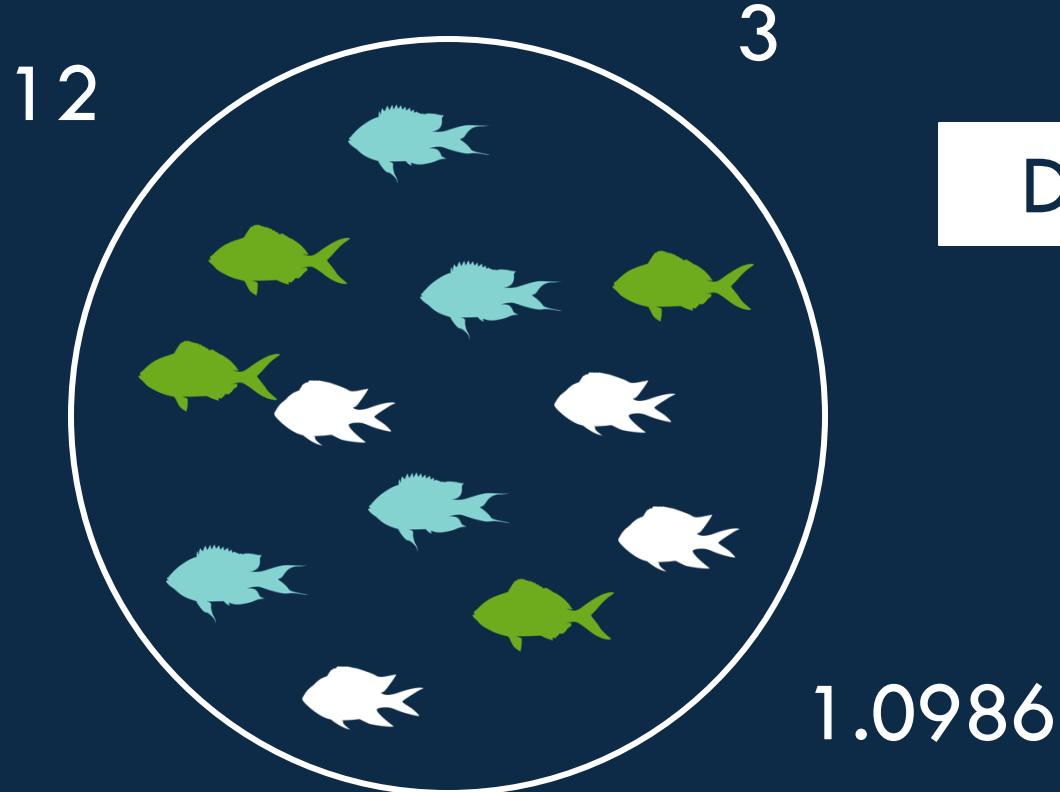
SPECIES RICHNESS

ALWAYS integers



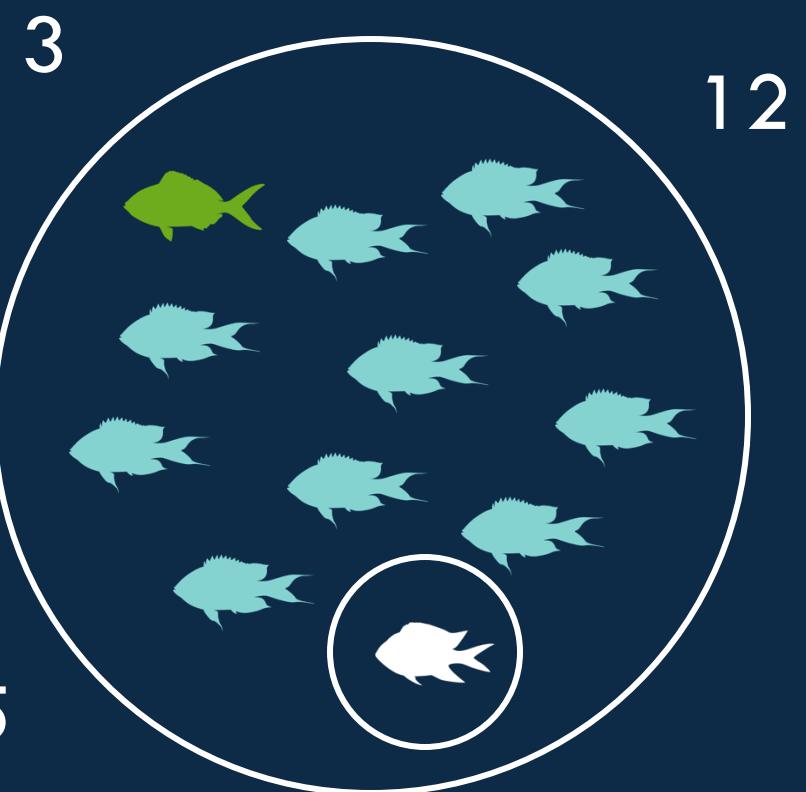
# First order properties: single communities

Community 1



DIVERSITY

Community 2

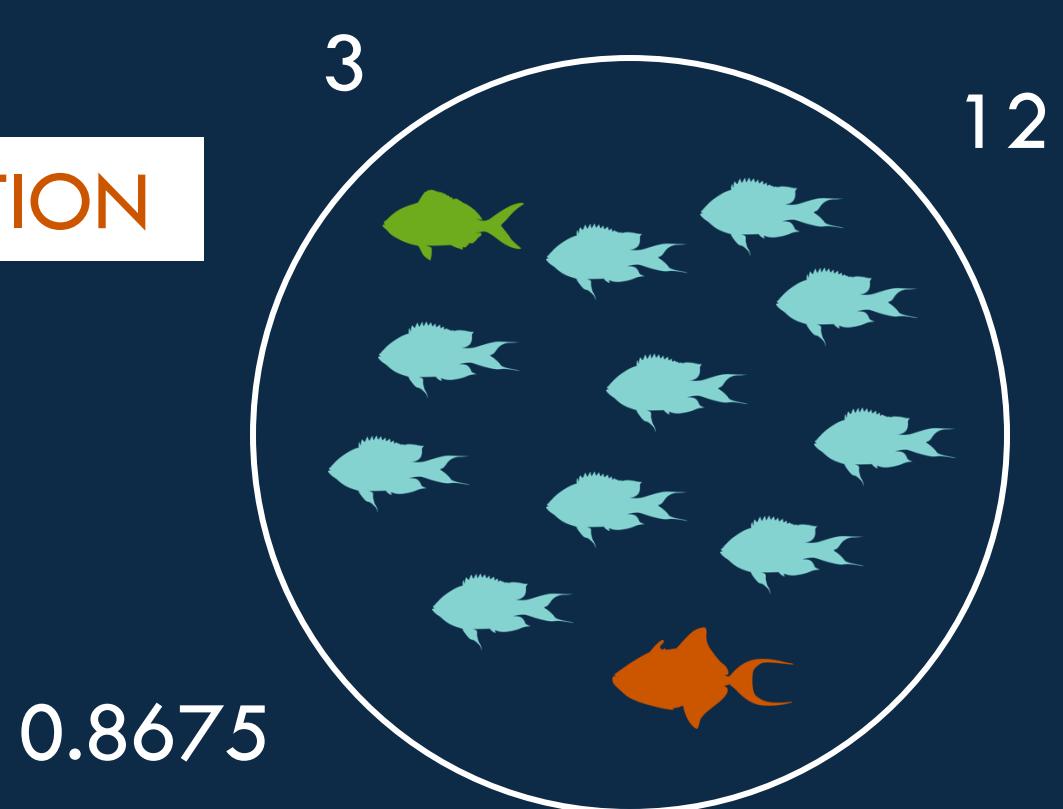


Shannon Diversity Index:  $H = -\sum[(p_i) * \log(p_i)] \mid p_i = n / N$

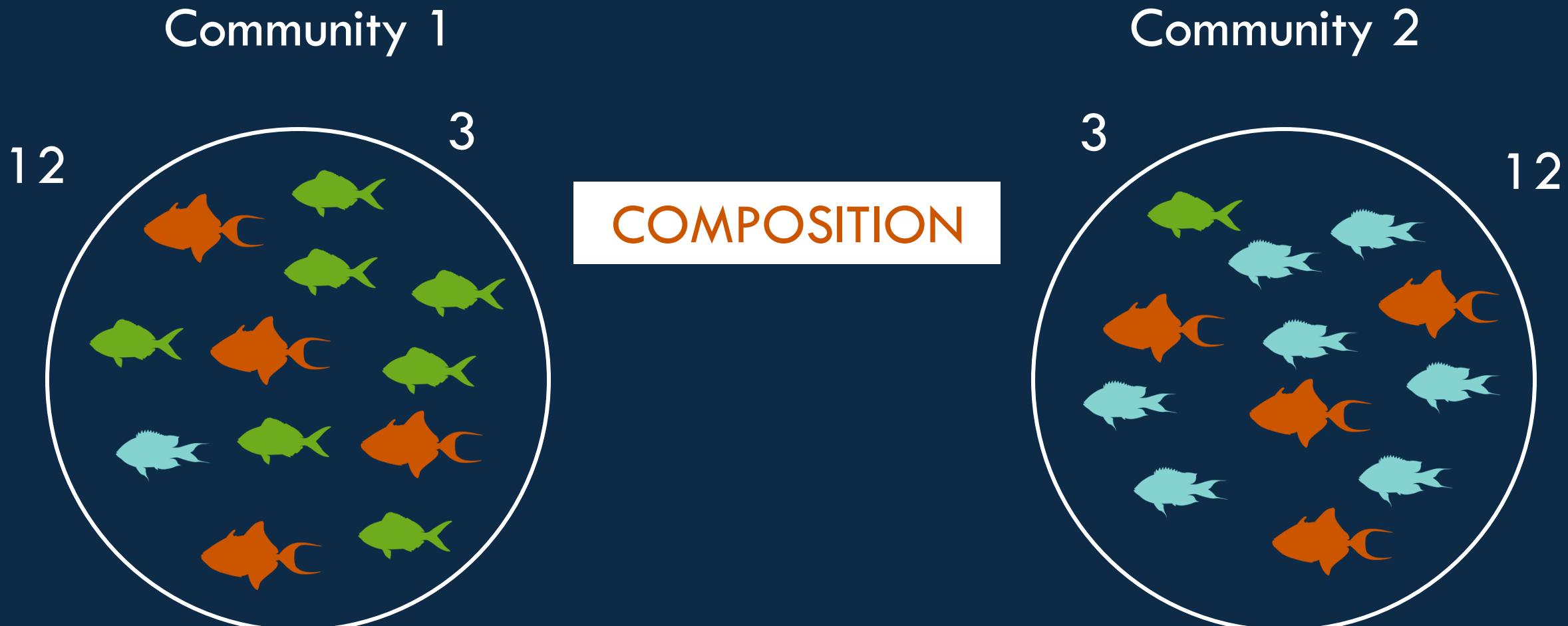
# First order properties: multiple communities



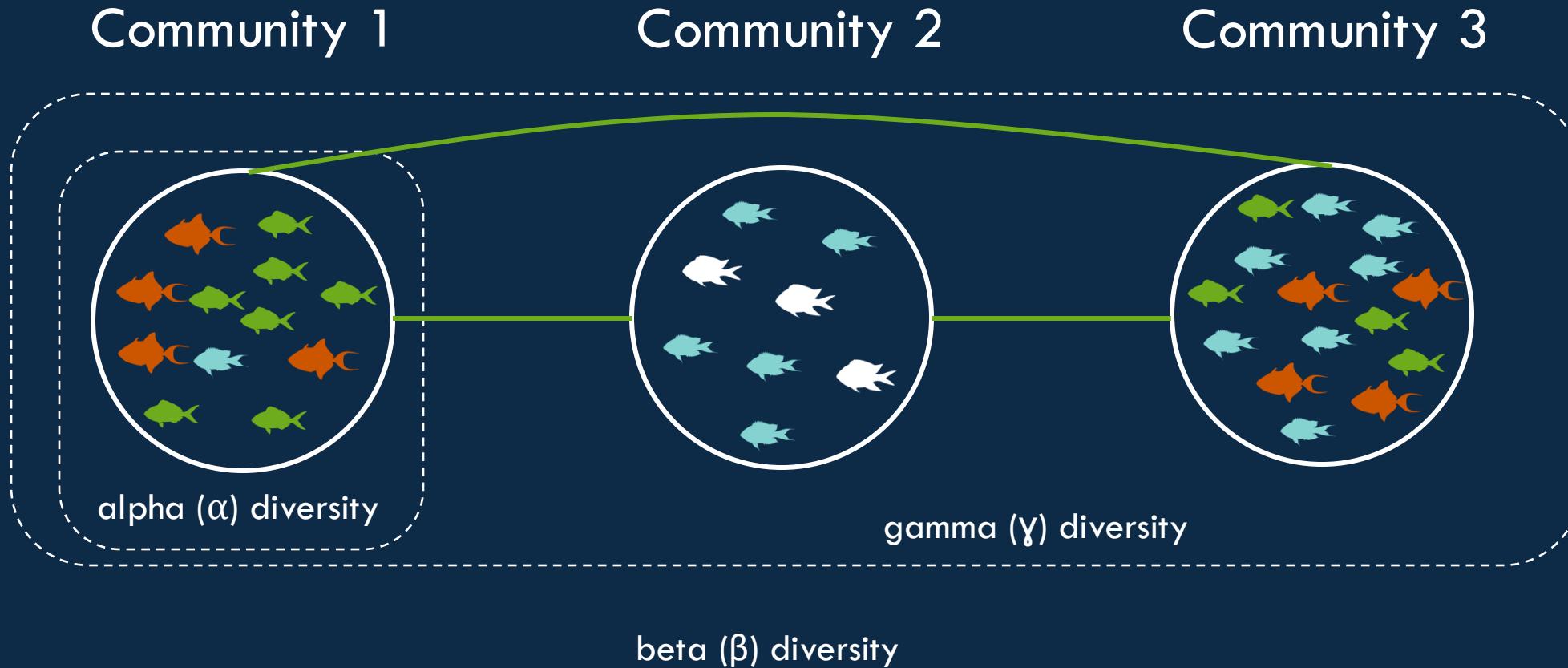
COMPOSITION



# First order properties: multiple communities

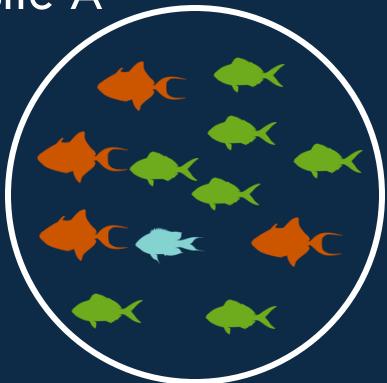


# First order properties: multiple communities

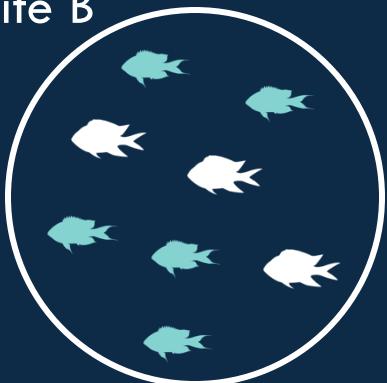


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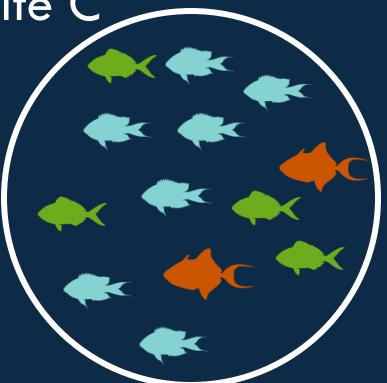
Site A



Site B



Site C



Site	Species 1	Species 2	Species 3	Species 4
A	1	1	1	0
B	0	1	0	1
C	1	1	1	0

Site	Species 1	Species 2	Species 3	Species 4
A	7	1	4	0
B	0	4	0	3
C	4	7	2	0



Tane Sinclair-Taylor  
Expedition Photographer



Tane Sinclair-Taylor  
Expedition Photographer

## Second order properties: trait diversity and composition



Community A: tiny and colorful



Community B: large and plain

Trait based ecology combines basic community structure with organismal information



## Second order properties: species-environment relationship



Community A: live coral



Community B: dead coral

Species environment relationships describe links between communities and environmental properties

# Cheat sheet

1<sup>st</sup> order variables, one community:

- 1) Abundance (integer, non-negative)
- 2) Species richness (integer, non-negative)
- 3) Diversity or evenness (decimal, non-negative)
- 4) Species-abundance distribution (distribution)

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

1<sup>st</sup> order variables, many communities:

- 1) Community composition (no value)
- 2) Beta-diversity (decimal, non-negative)

COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

2<sup>nd</sup> order variables:

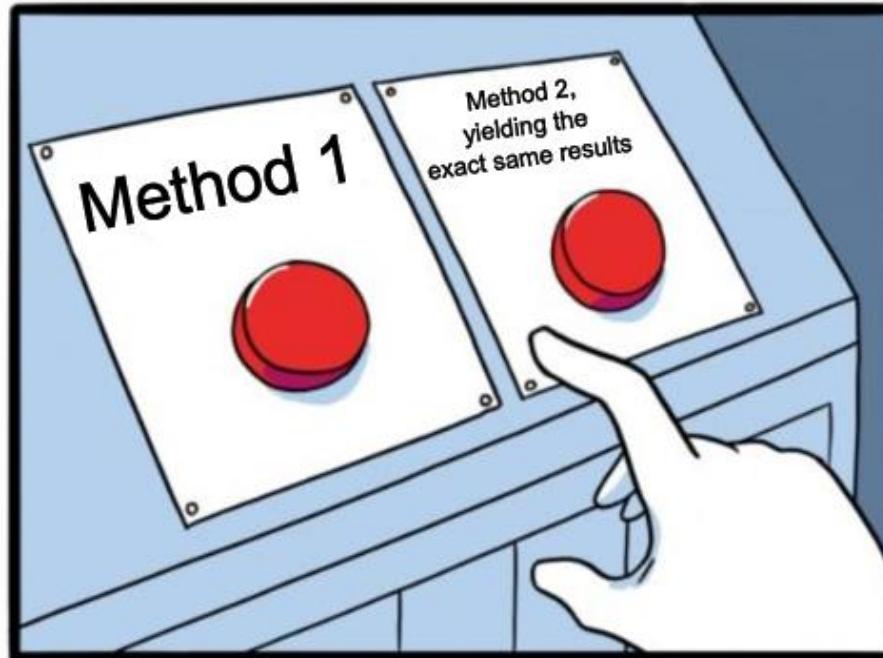
- 1) Trait diversity and composition (requires species characteristics)
- 2) Species-environment relationships (requires site characteristics)



# COMPARING ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

# So many options...

1. Species richness, species density (area-standardized), or rarefied species richness
2. Diversity & evenness: Shannon index, Rényi entropy, Simpson's diversity, Simpson-Gini index, Berger Parker Index, Pielou's evenness
3. Composition: PCA, CCA, DCA, PCoA, MDS, nMDS, RDA, Cluster analysis (k-means, hierarchical, fuzzy)
4. Beta diversity: Whittaker's index, Simpson's index, Sørensen index
5. Trait based analyses: functional richness, functional evenness, Rao's Q, functional divergence, functional diversity, functional originality
6. Species-environment relationships: redundancy analyses, canonical discriminant analysis, Mantel's test



JAKE-CLARK.TUMBLR



Tane Sinclair-Taylor  
Expedition Photographer



Tane Sinclair-Taylor  
Expedition Photographer

# Patterns and predictors of global marine species richness



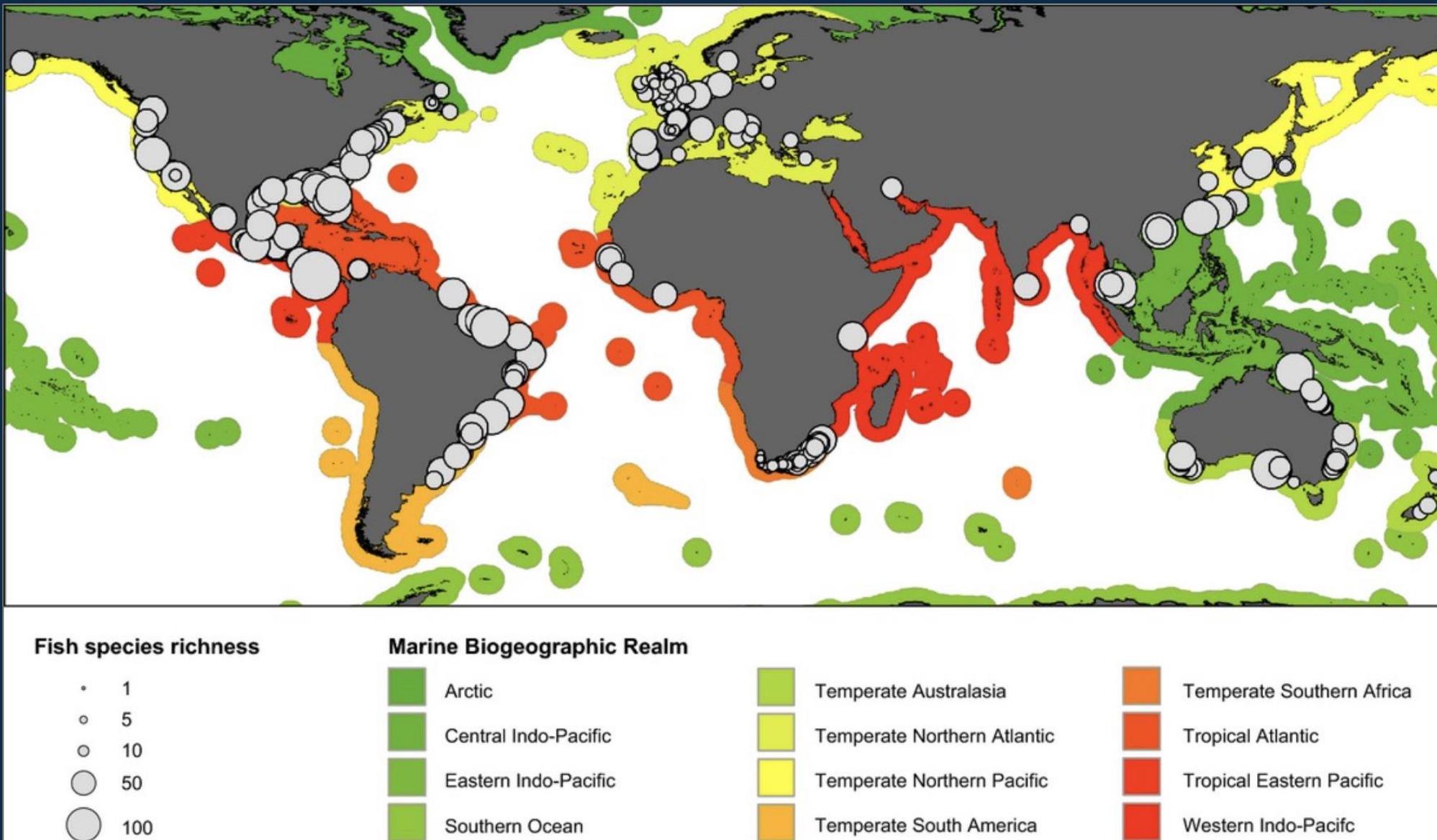
What do you think influences species richness patterns at a global scale?



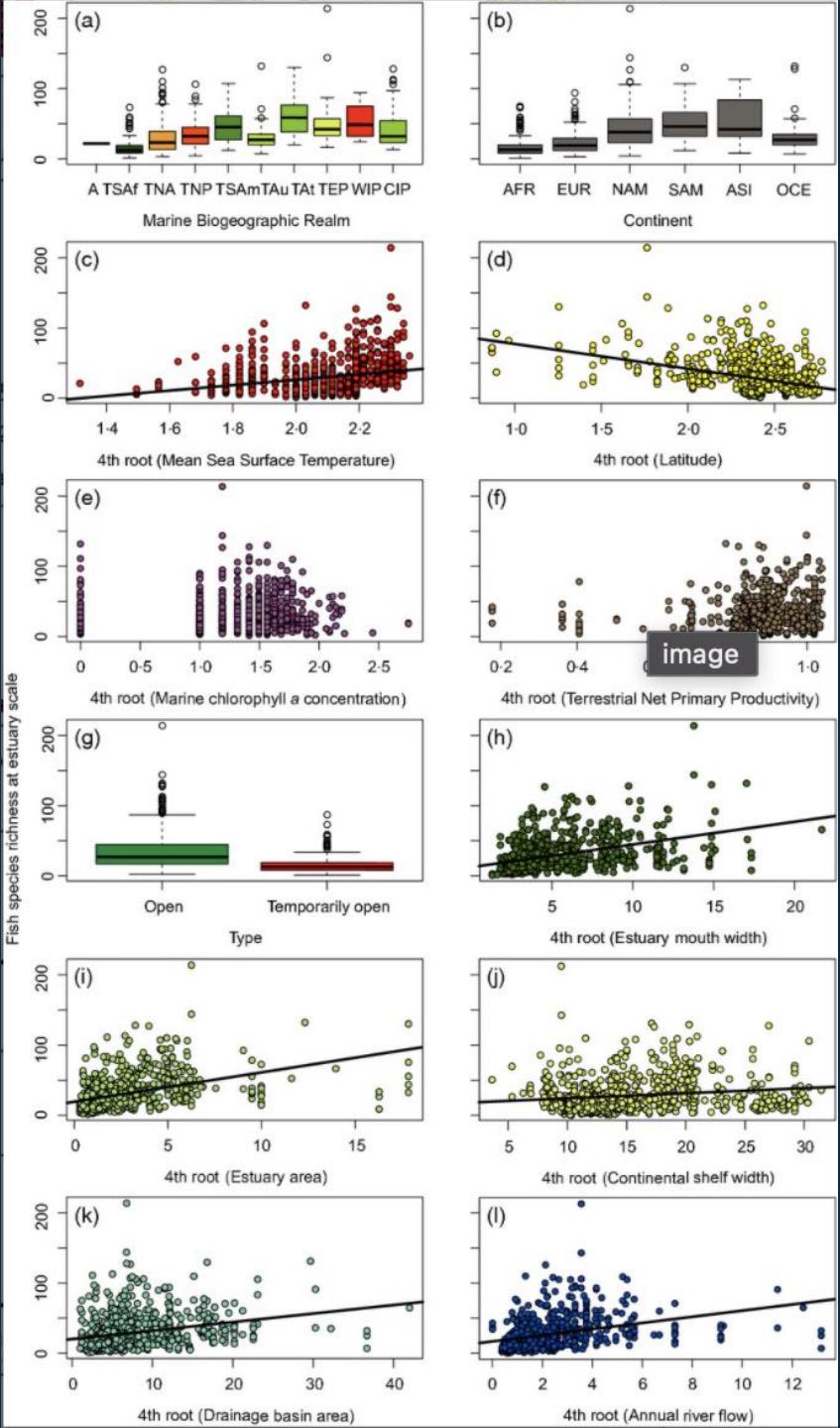
TALK AMONGST YOURSELVES



# Estuarine fishes



# Estuarine fishes

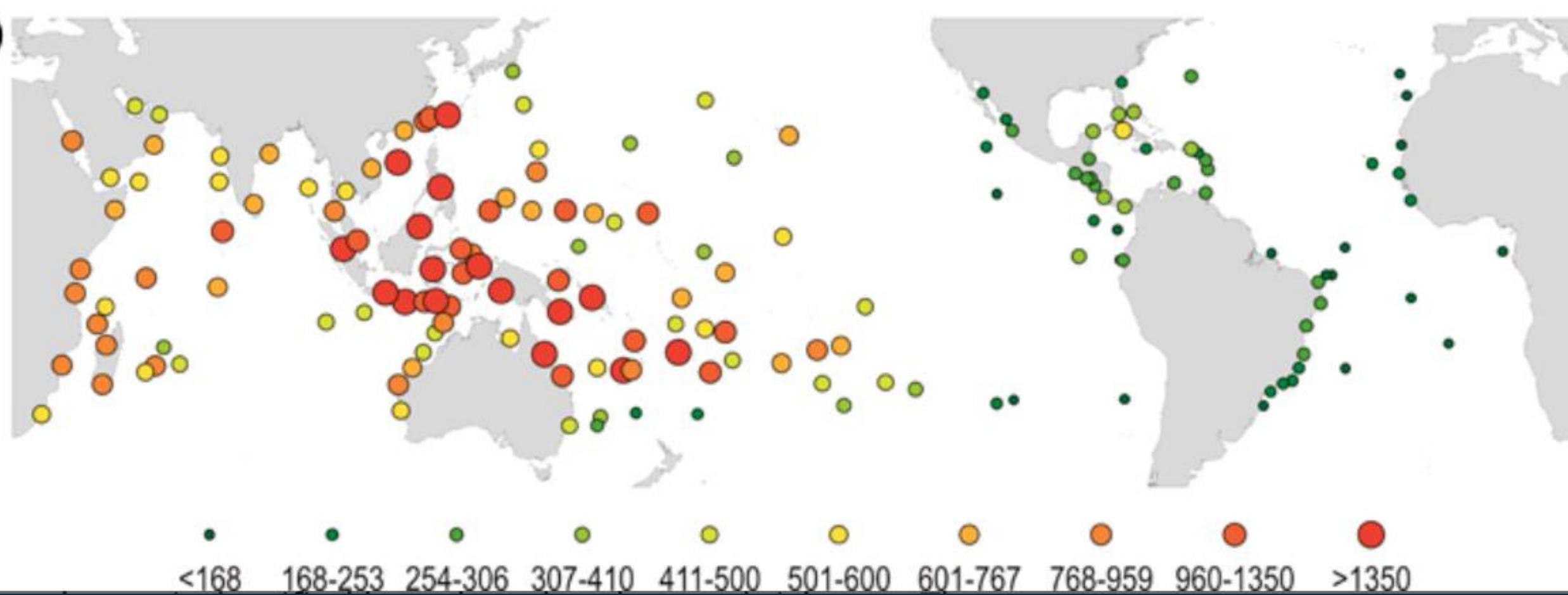


- biogeographic realm
- sea surface temperature
- estuarine area
- connectivity

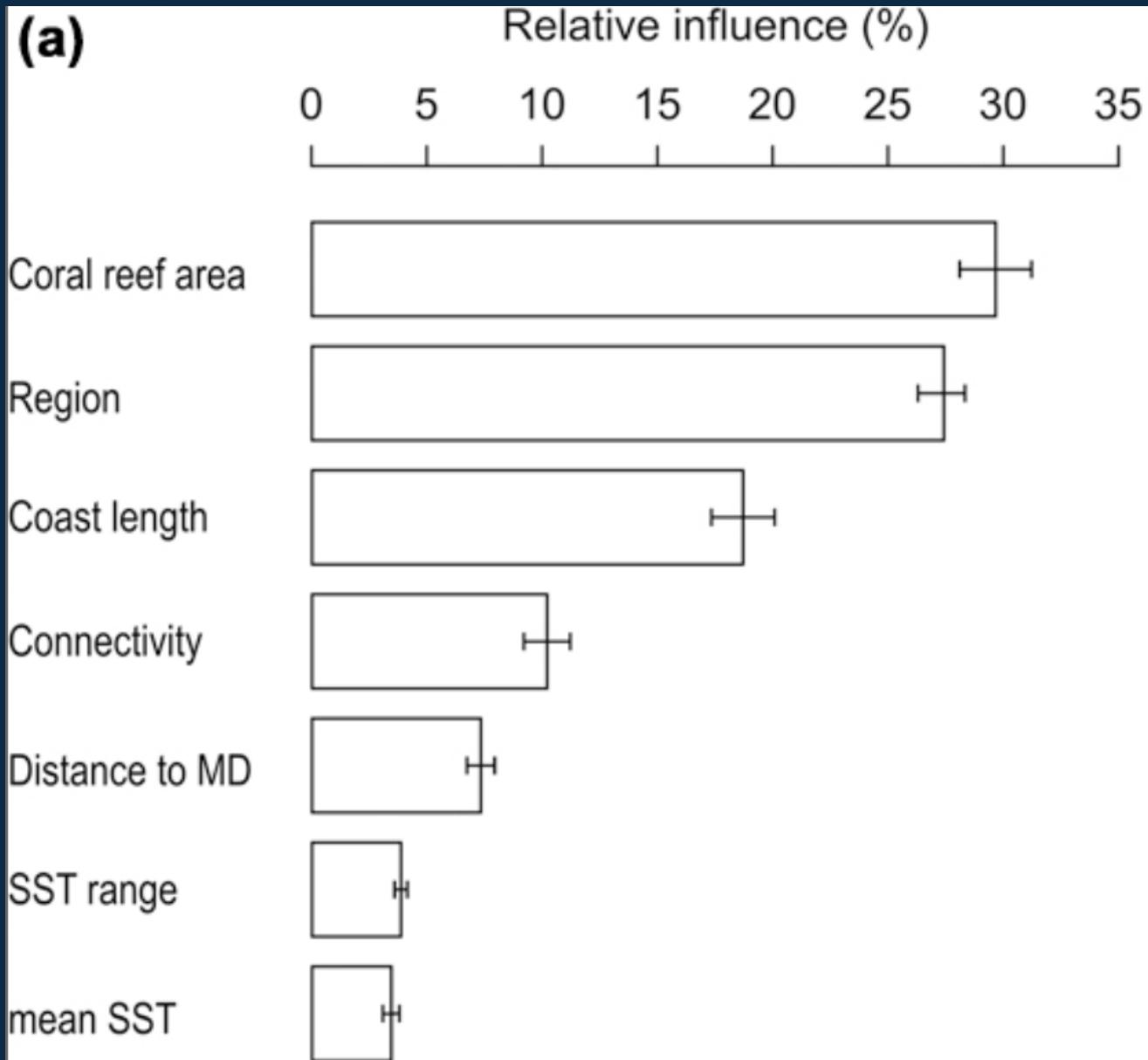


## Coral reef fishes

(b)



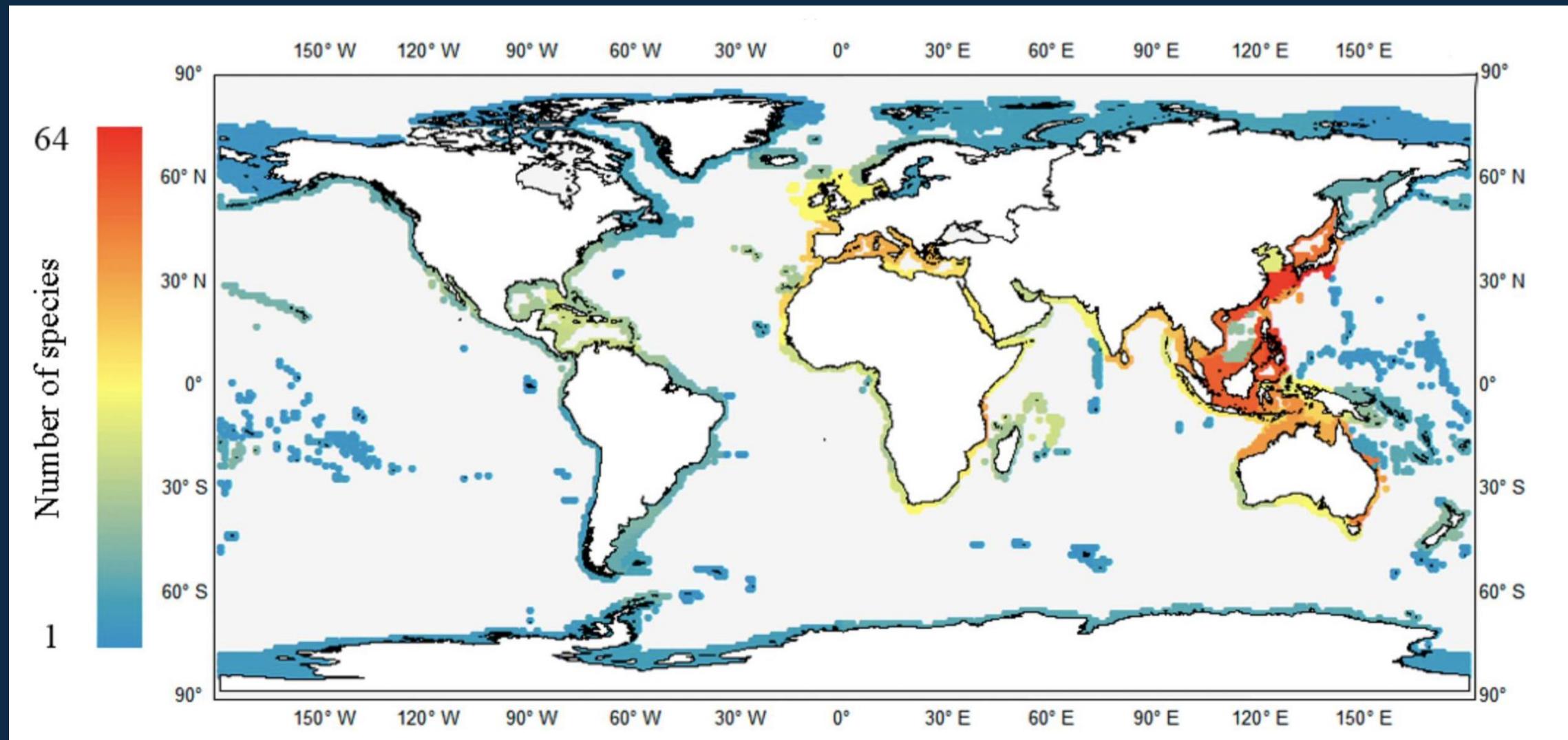
# Coral reef fishes



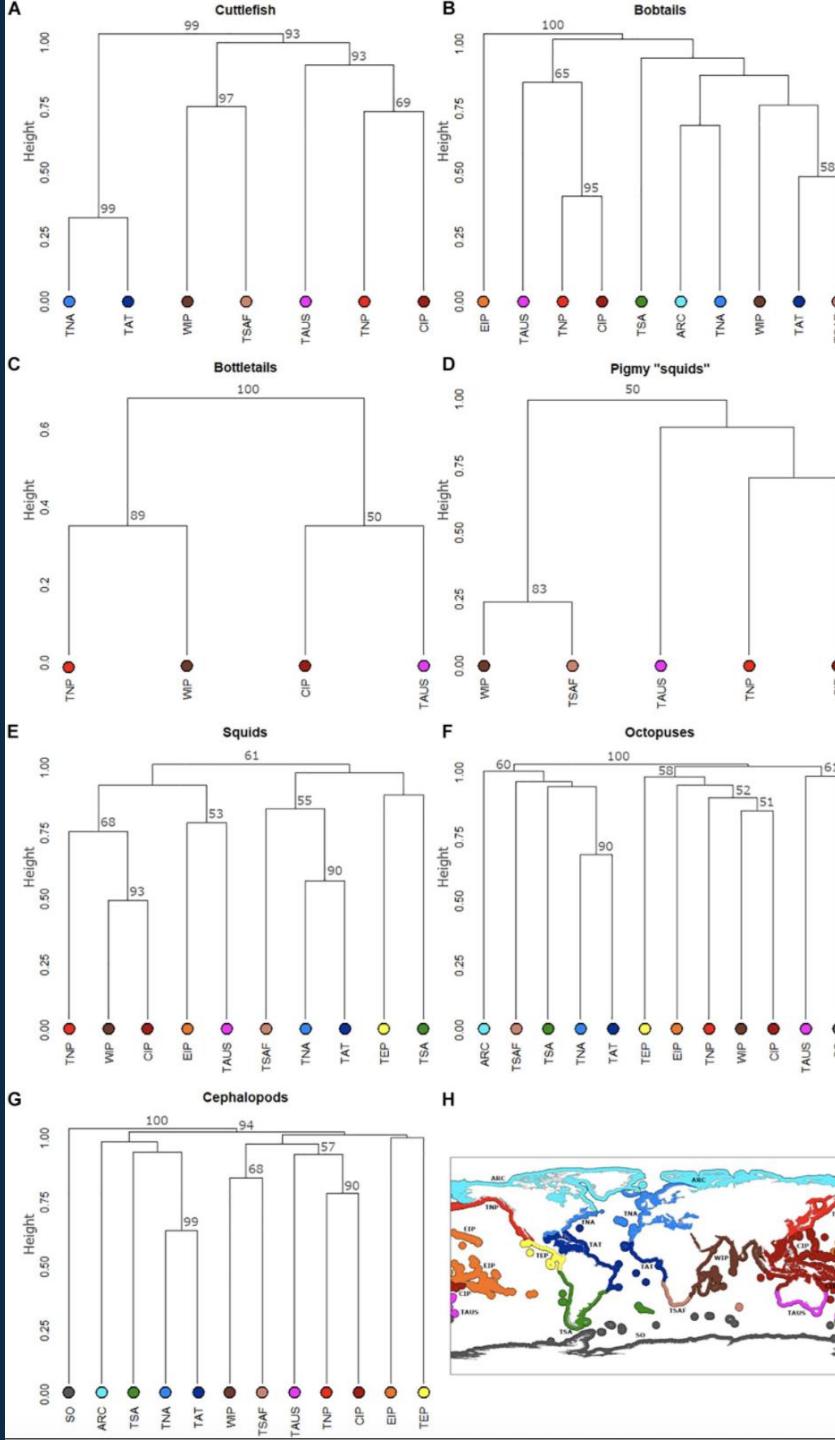
- coral reef area
- biogeographic realm
- sea surface temperature
- connectivity



# Coastal cephalopods



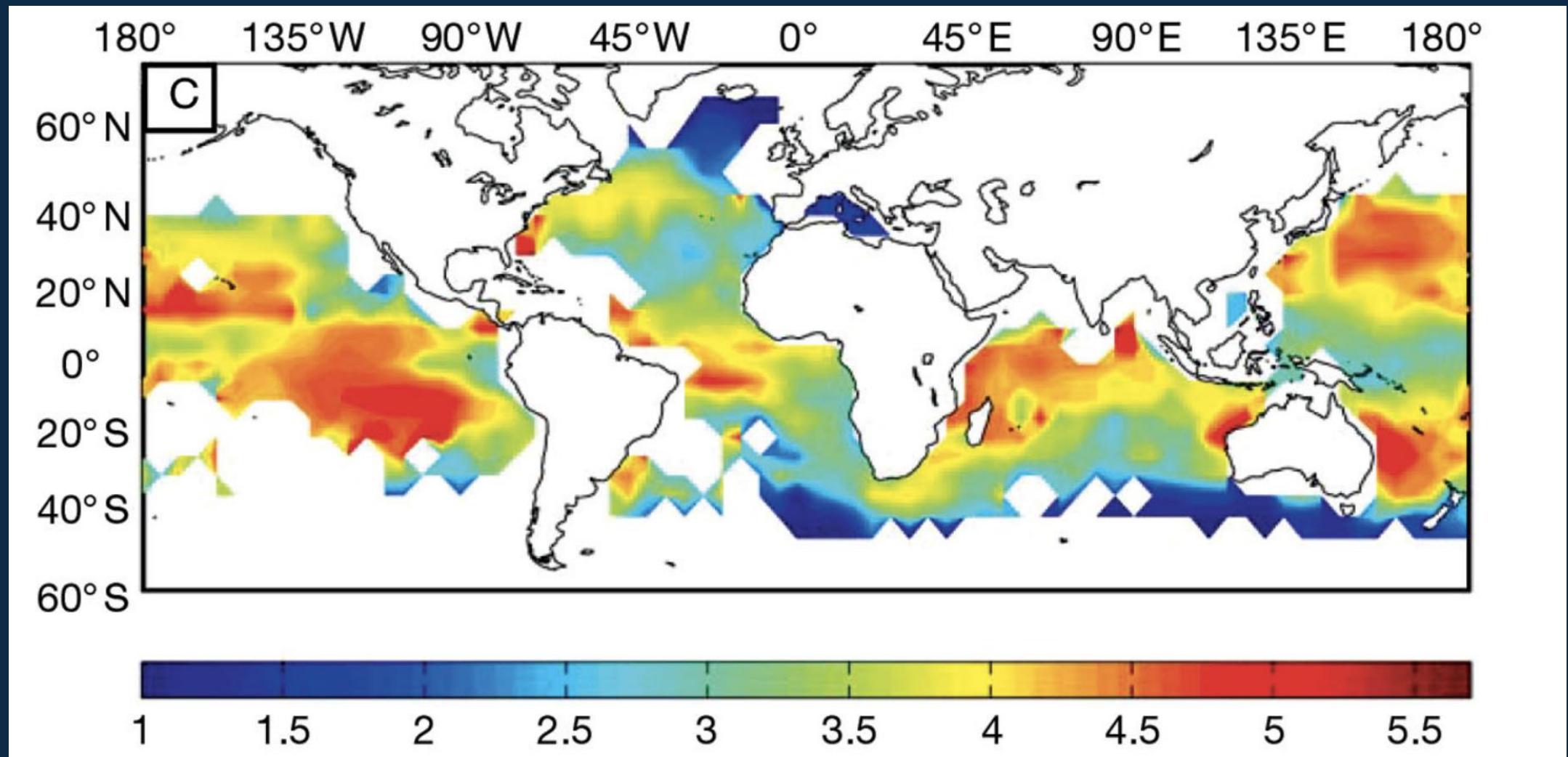
# Coastal cephalopods



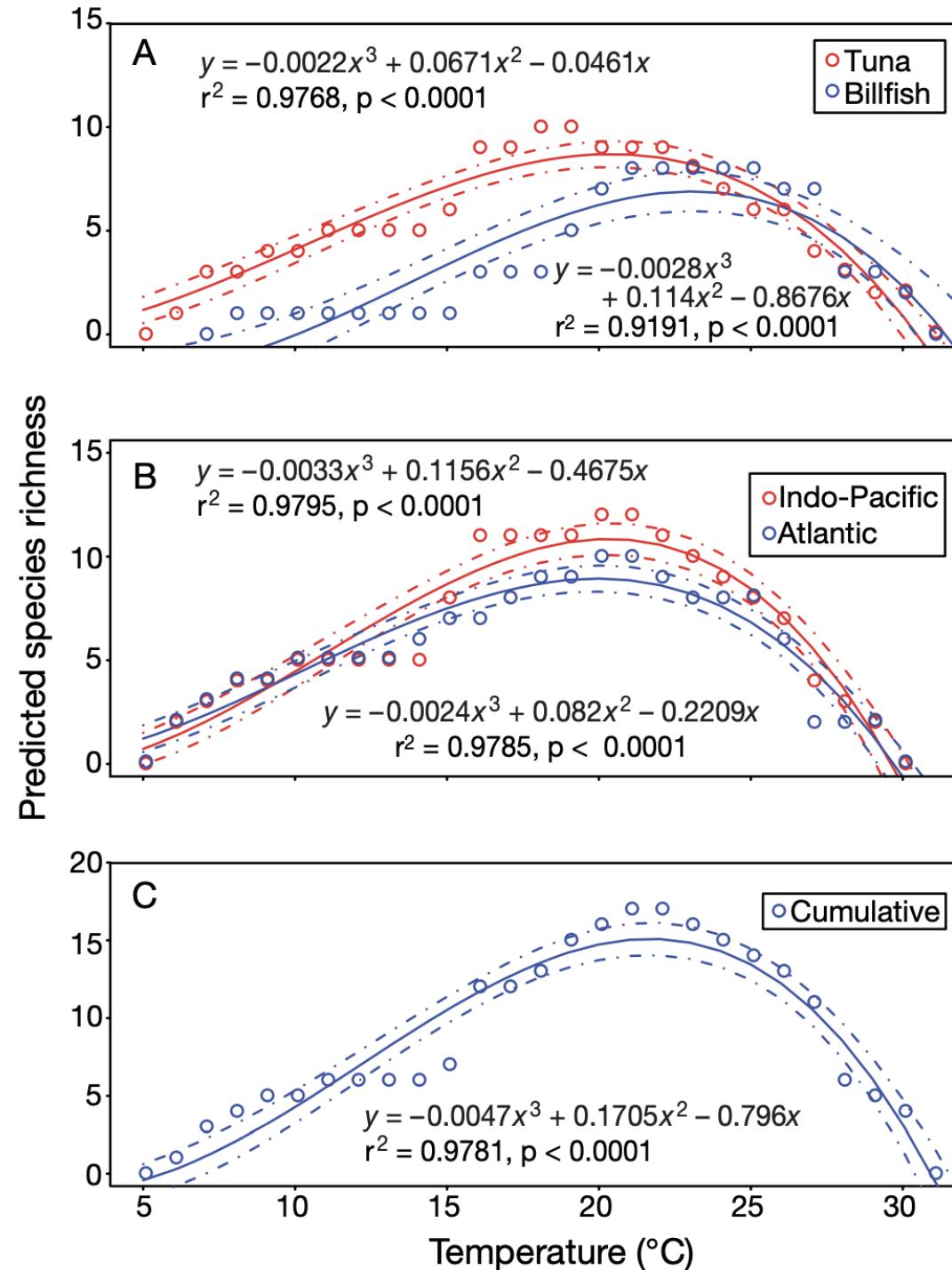
- phylogenetic history
- region



## Tunas and billfishes



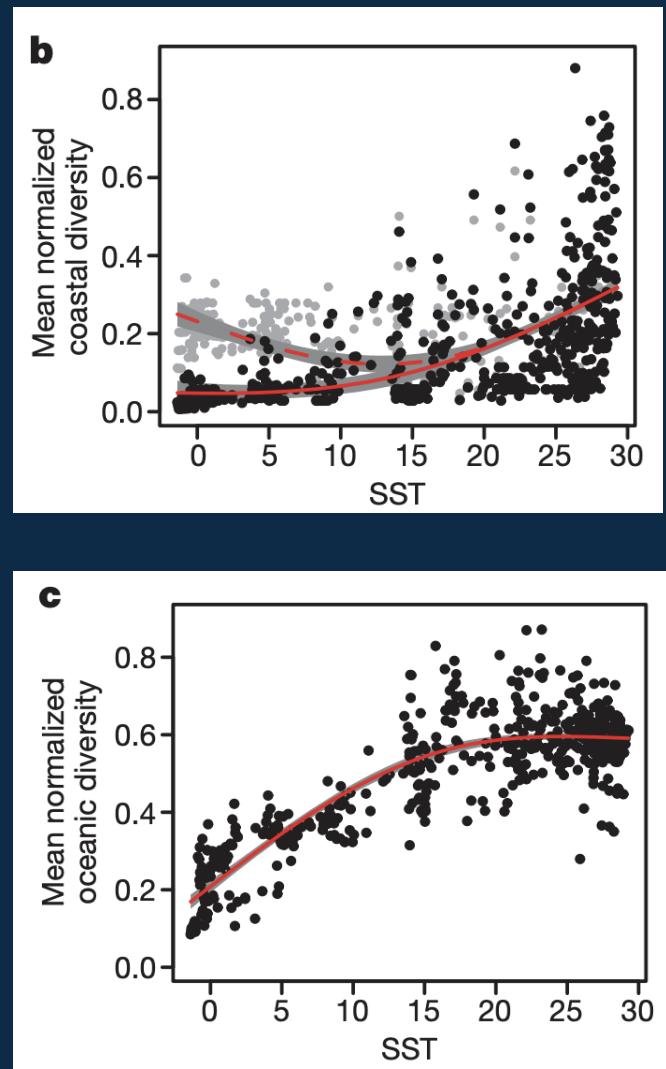
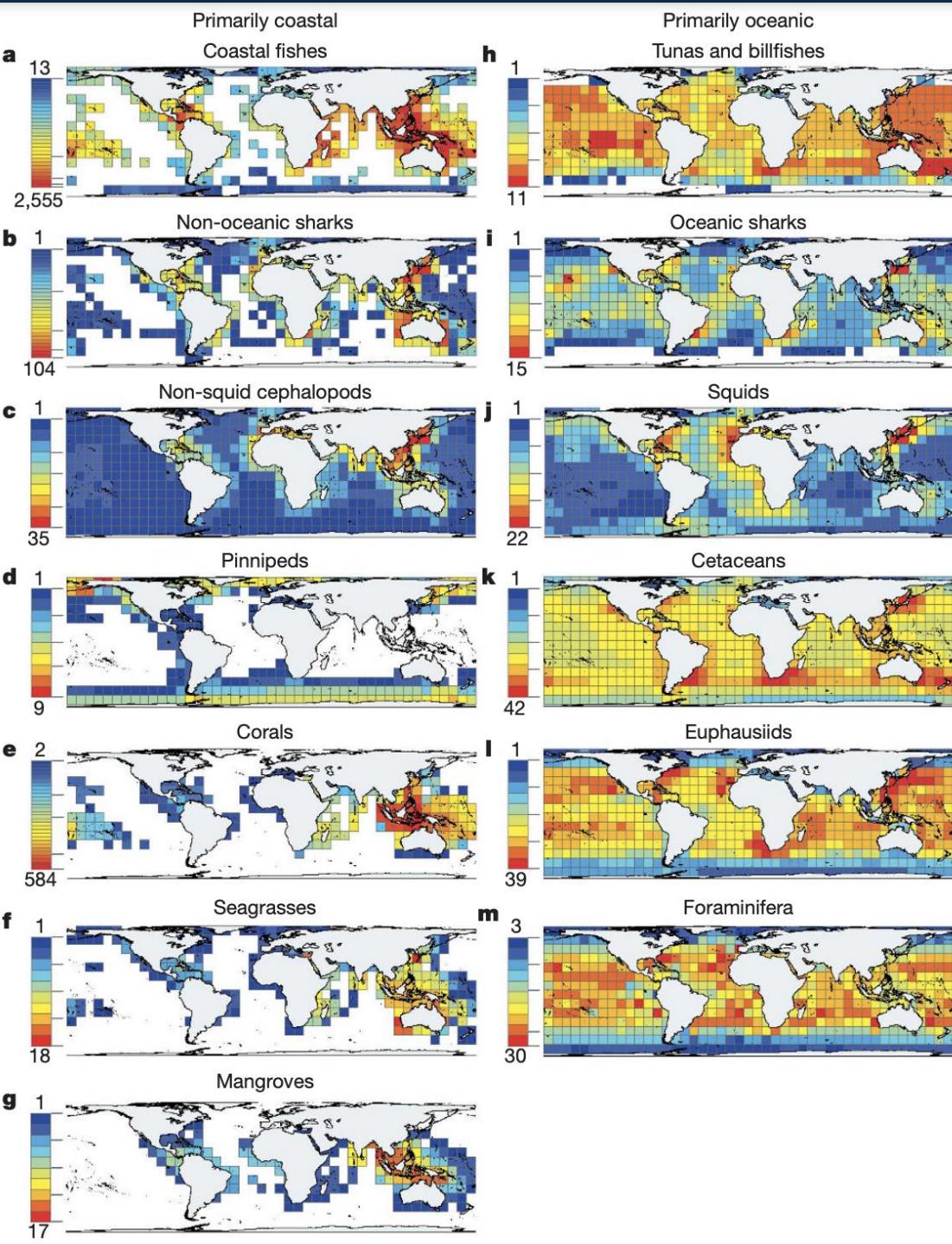
# Tunas and billfishes



- temperature

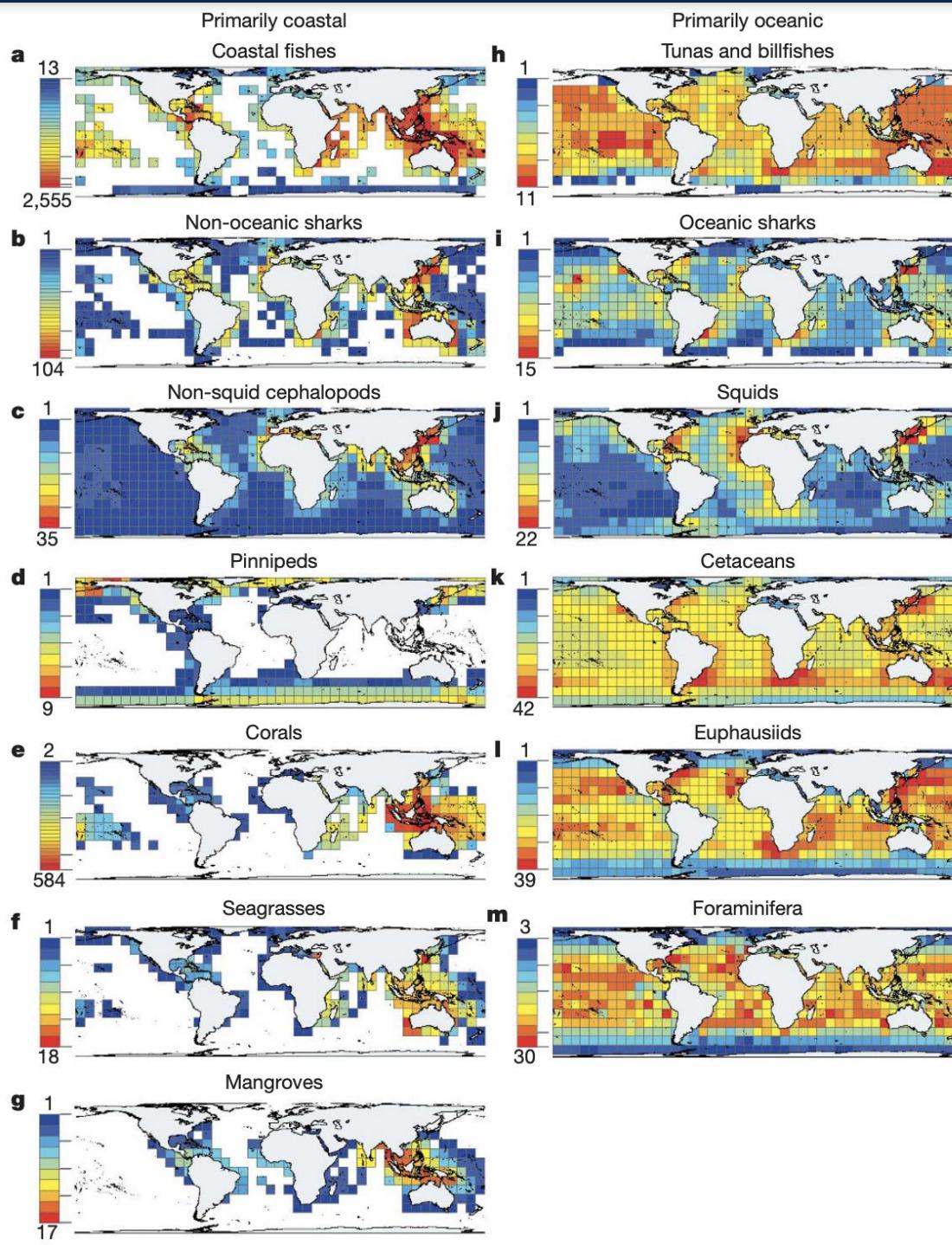


# Everything?



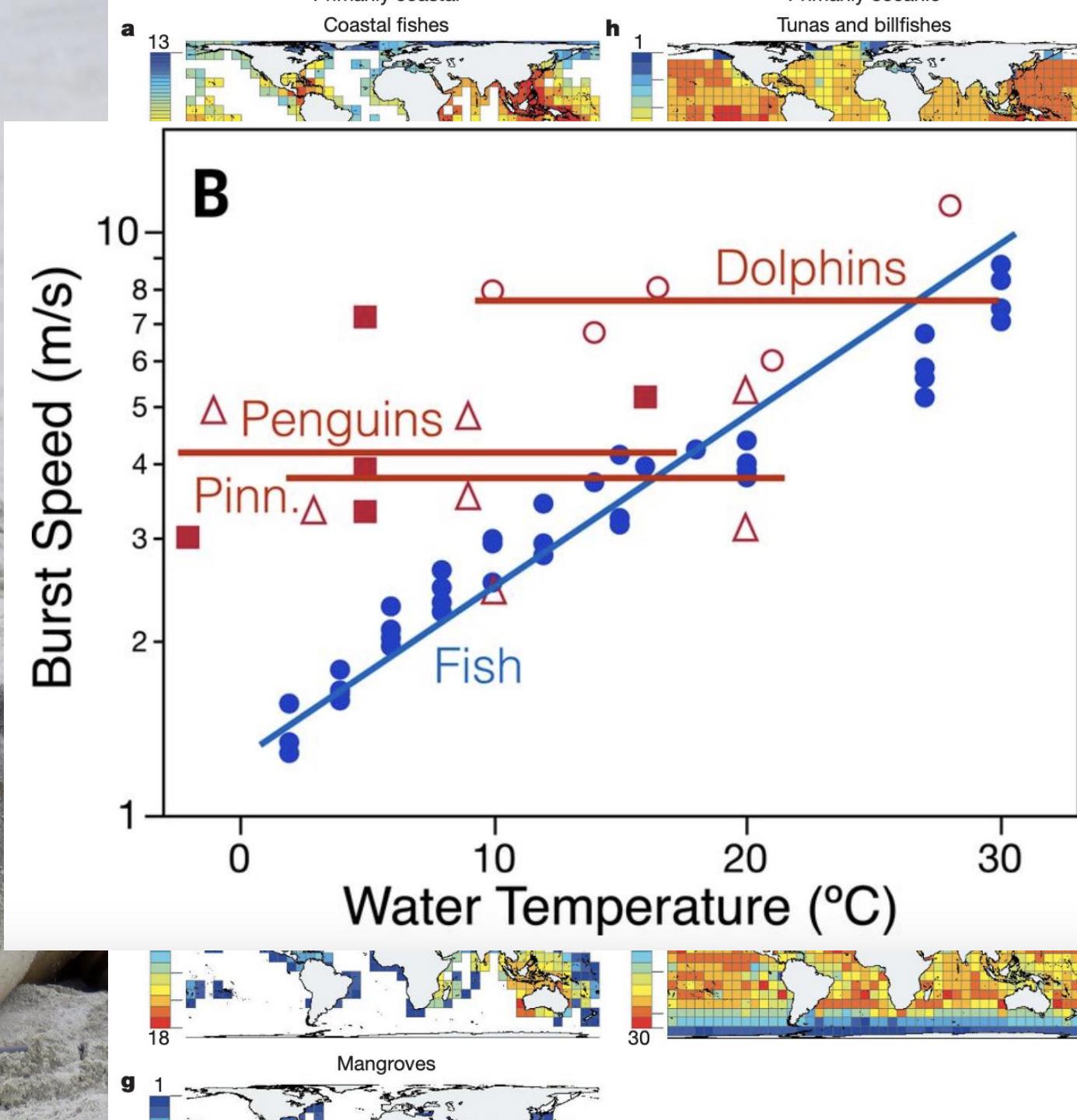
Why do species richness patterns differ between pelagic and coastal ecosystems?





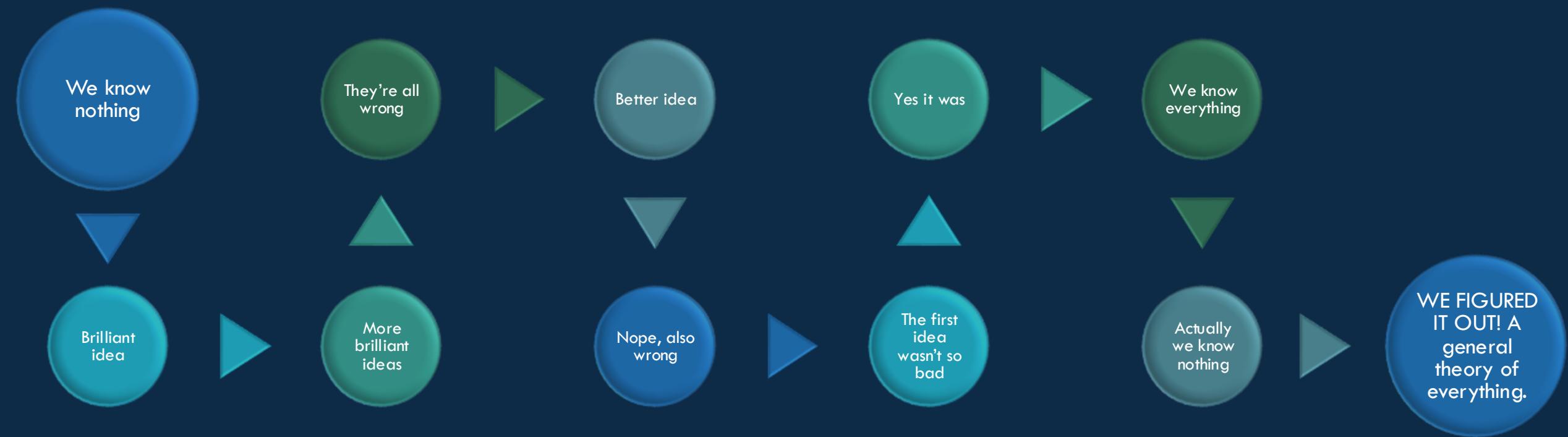
Why are pinnipeds most diverse in temperate and polar regions?





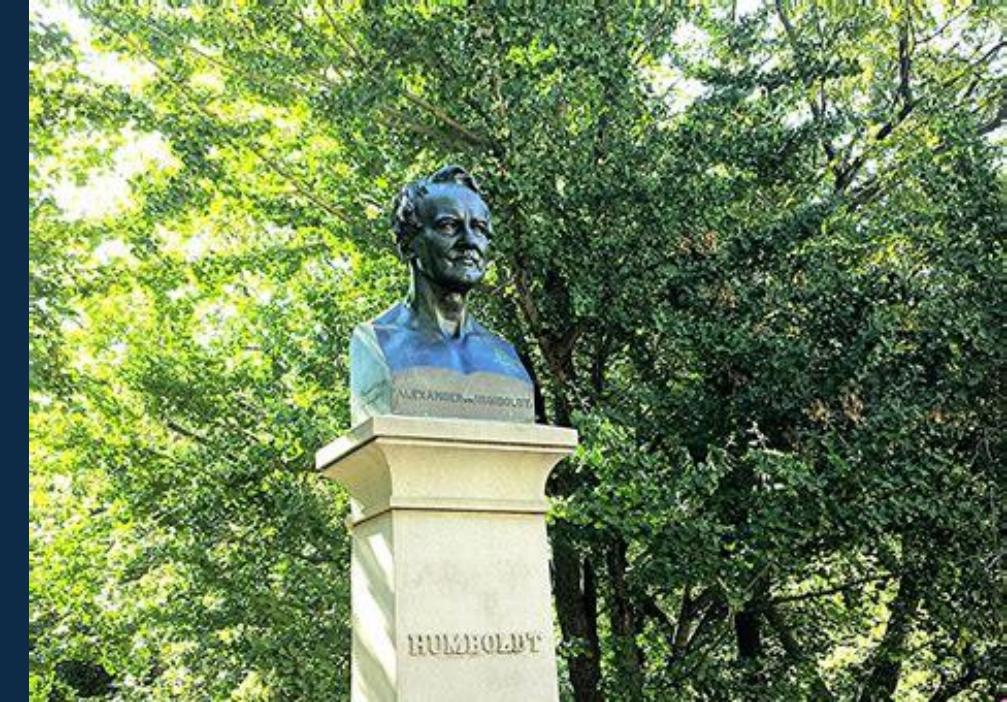


# IDEAS AND CONCEPTS IN COMMUNITY ECOLOGY



# Observing patterns

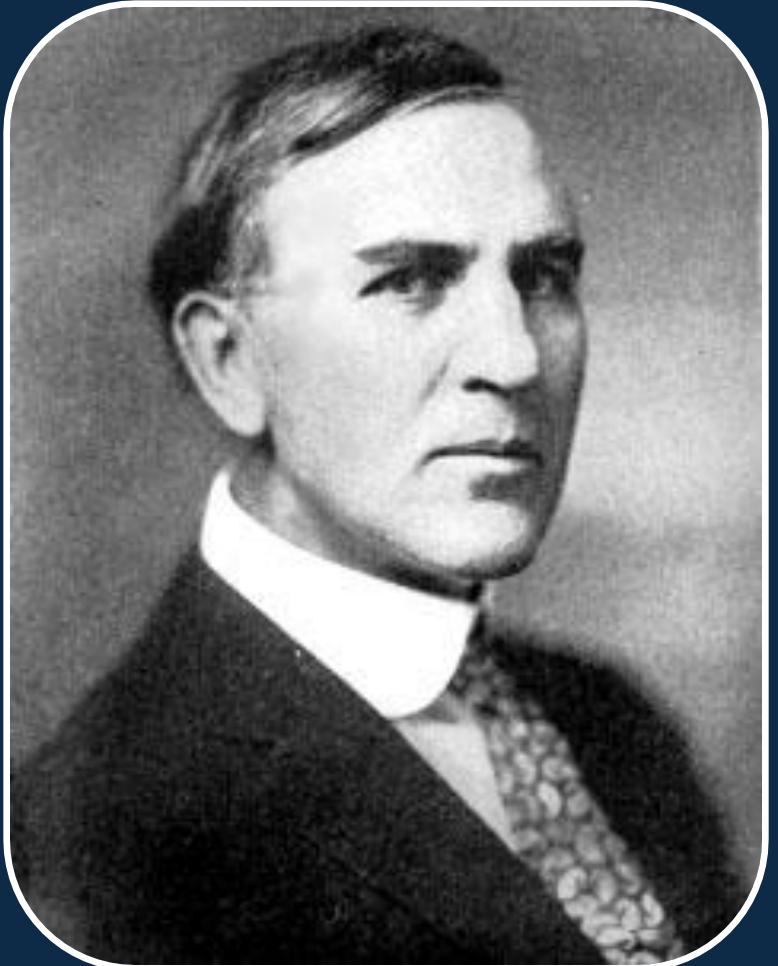




*The*  
**INVENTION**  
*of*  
**NATURE**

*The Adventures of*  
**ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT**  
*The Lost Hero of Science*

# Observing Patterns : Frederic Clement



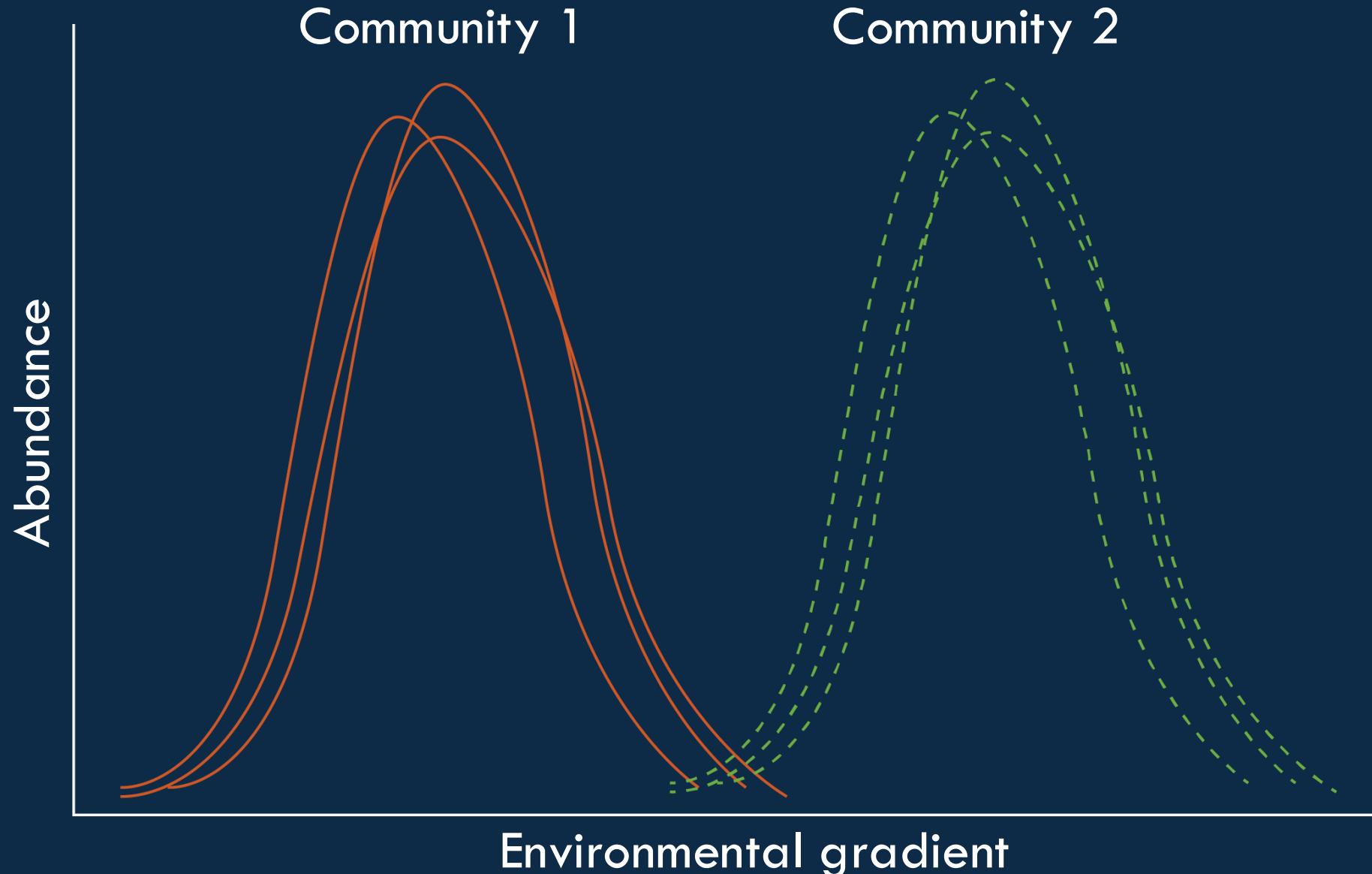
Frederic Clement (1916)

*The Phytogeography of Nebraska*

*Plant Succession: An Analysis of the Development  
of Vegetation*

Ecological communities as “superorganisms”

# Observing Patterns : Frederic Clement



# Observing Patterns : Frederic Clement



# Observing Patterns : Henry Gleason



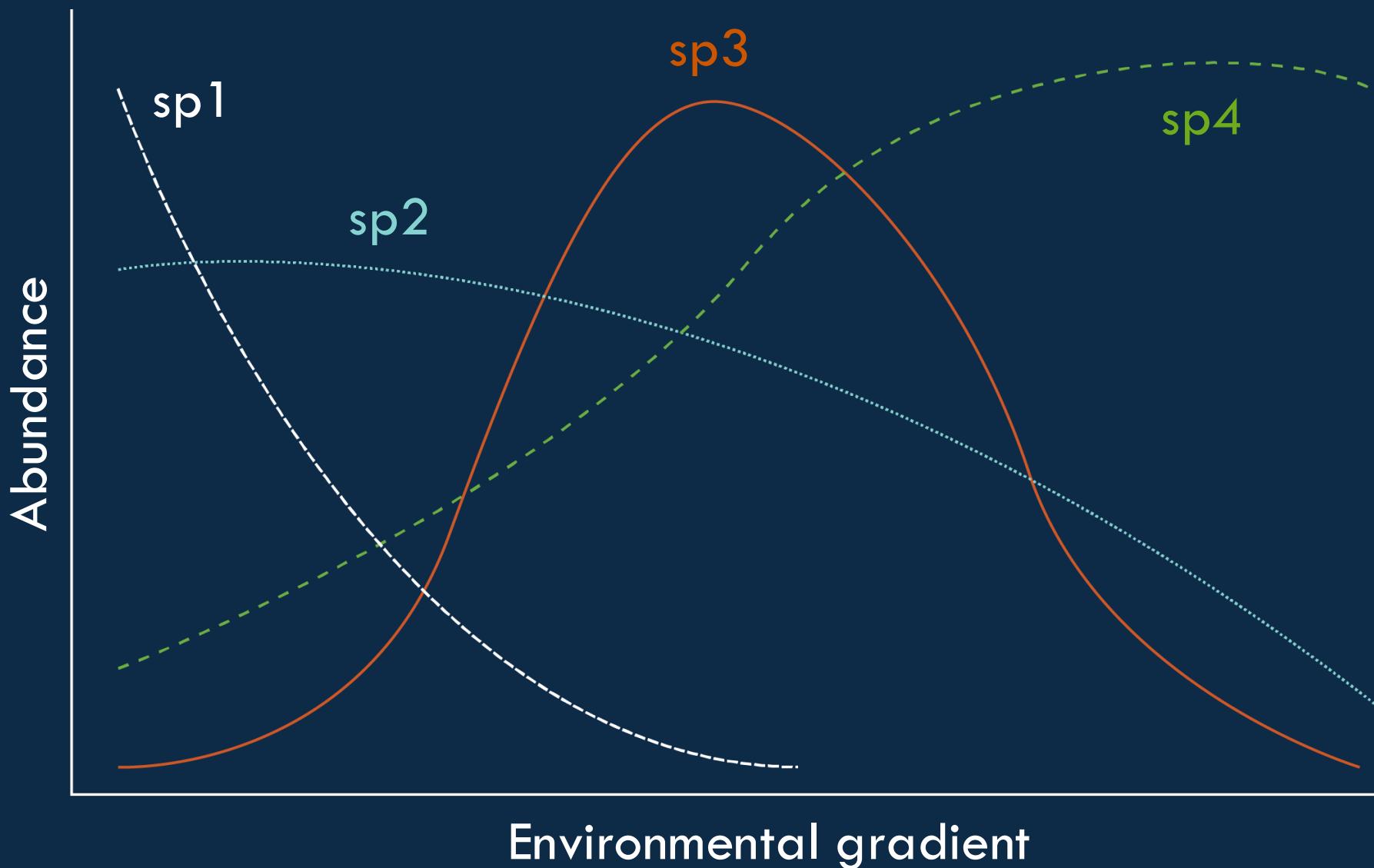
Henry Gleason (1926)

*The Individualistic Concept of the Plant Association*

*Species and area*

Ecological communities as conglomerates of species with individual tolerances

# Observing Patterns : Henry Gleason



# Observing Patterns : Henry Gleason





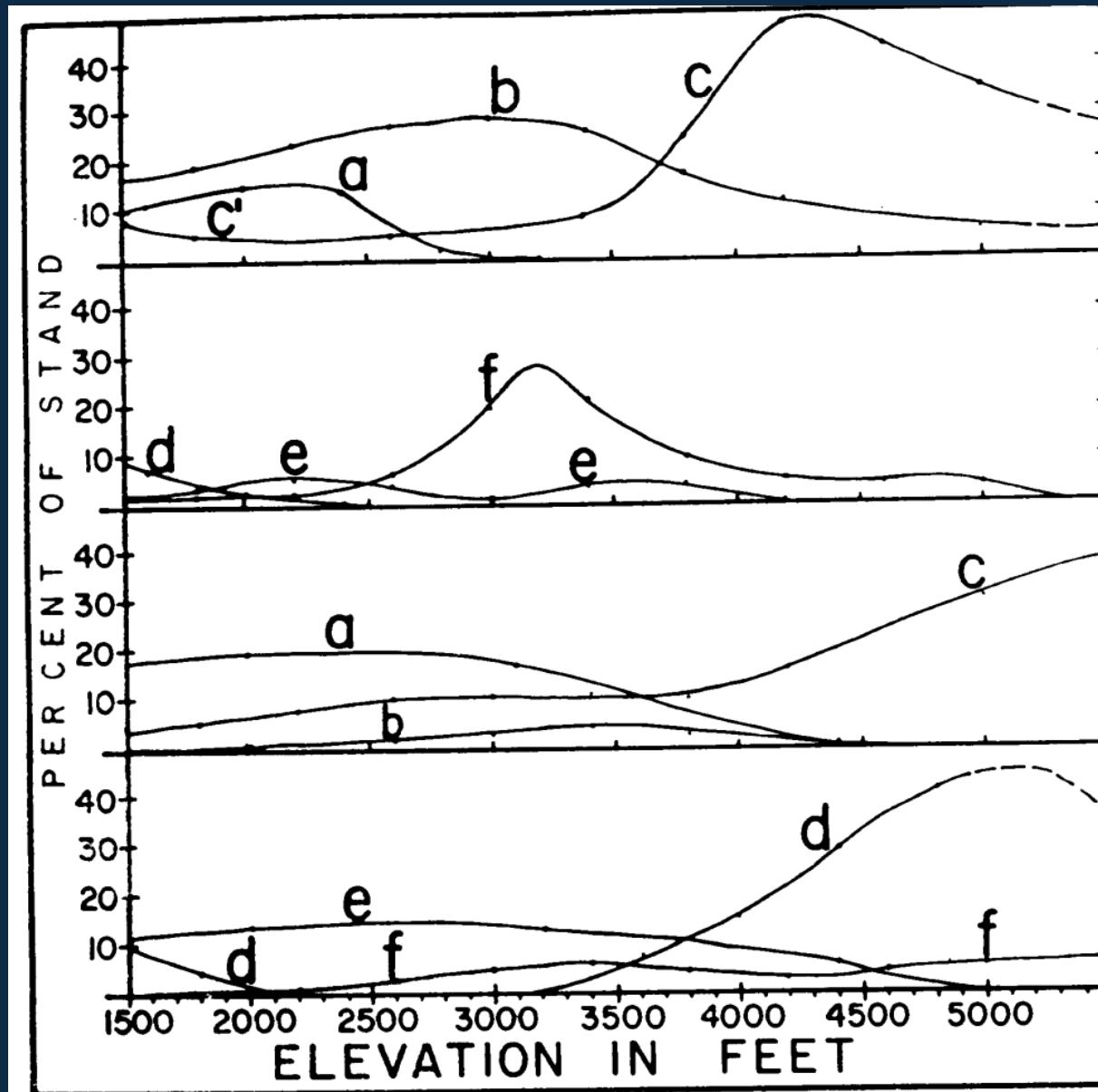
# Observing Patterns: Robert H. Whittaker

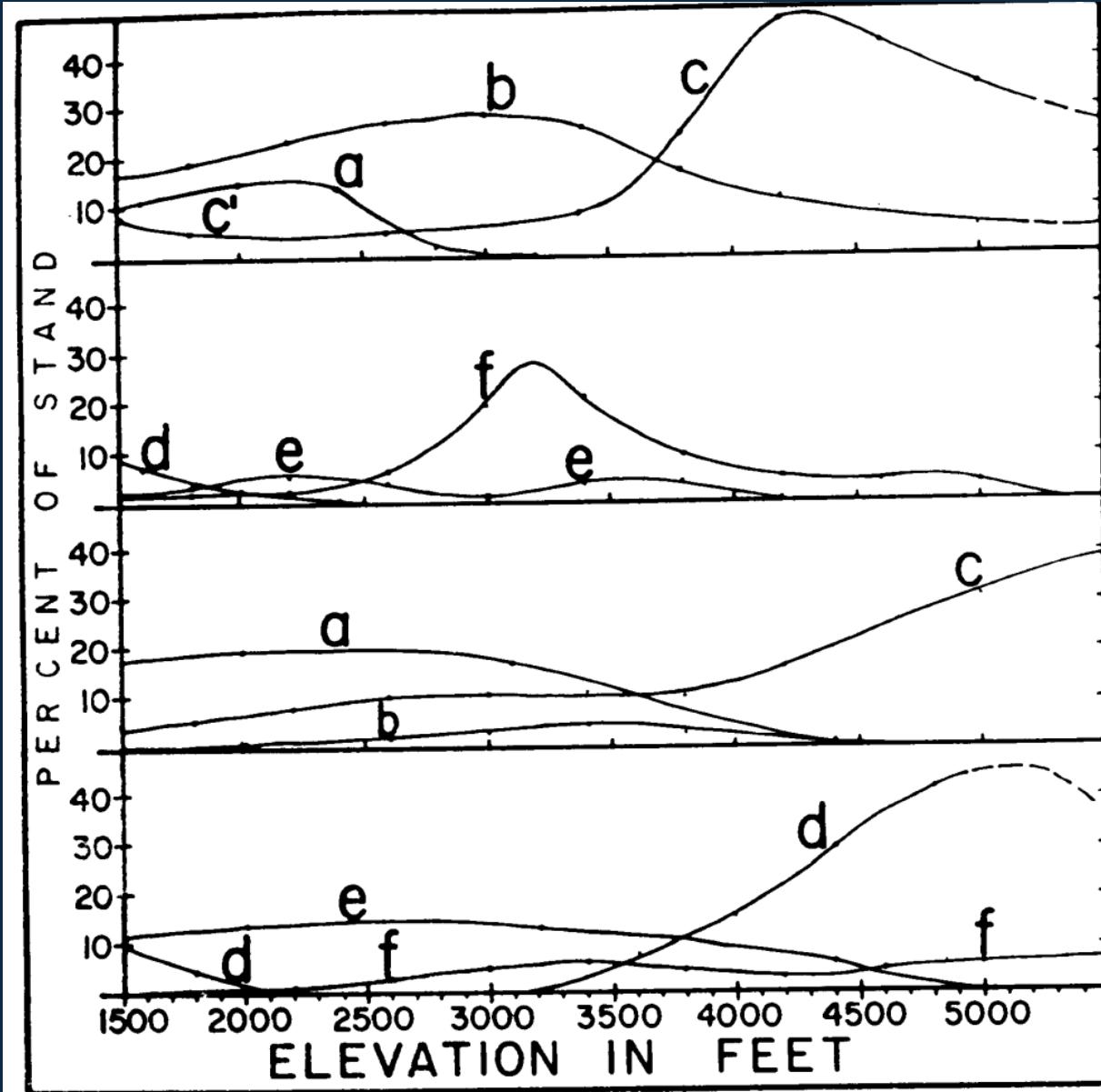


Whittaker 1956

TABLE 3. Composite transect of moisture gradient between 3500 and 4500 ft, distribution of trees along gradient. Transect along the moisture gradient from mesic valley sites (Sta. 1) to xeric southwest slope sites (Sta. 12), based on 46 site counts including 4906 stems from elevations between 3500 ft and 4500 ft. All figures are percentages of total stems in station from 1-in. diameter class up.

# Observing Patterns : Robert H. Whittaker





Is this a good, quantitative analysis of the community?



# Quantifying Patterns

## Ordinations

### AN ORDINATION OF THE UPLAND FOREST COMMUNITIES OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN\*

J. ROGER BRAY† AND J. T. CURTIS

*Department of Botany, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

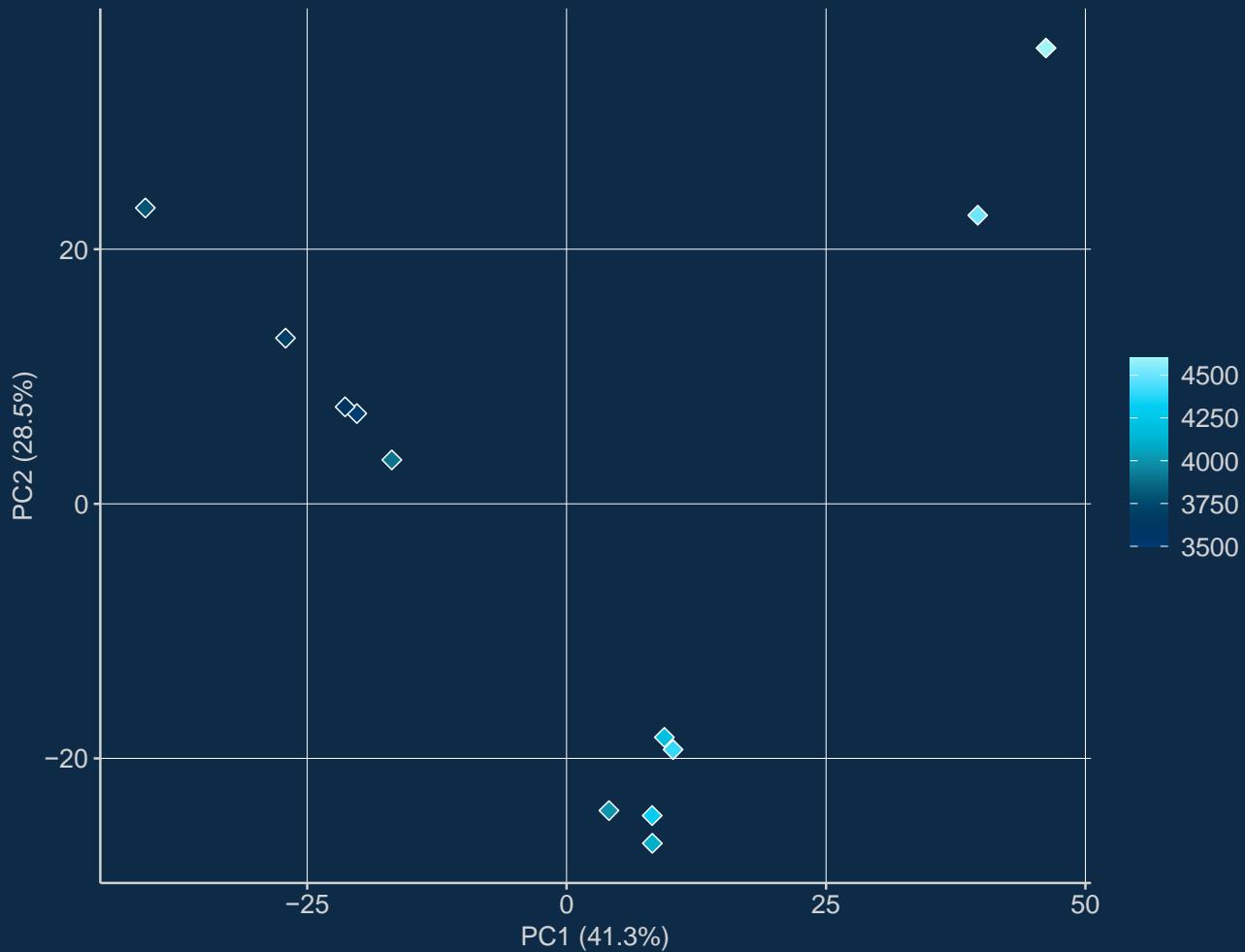
*Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*

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TABLE 3. Composite transect of moisture gradient between 3500 and 4500 ft, distribution of trees along gradient. Transect along the moisture gradient from mesic valley sites (Sta. 1) to xeric southwest slope sites (Sta. 12), based on 46 site counts including 4906 stems from elevations between 3500 ft and 4500 ft. All figures are percentages of total stems in station from 1-in. diameter class up.

Tree species	STATION NUMBER											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	10	5	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	..	1	..	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Picea rubens</i>	..	x	..	x	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	1	1	..	x	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Aesculus octandra</i>	8	9	4	2	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Tilia heterophylla</i>	29	11	9	1	14	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	16	11	11	..	17	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	17	7	1	1	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	2	1	..	1	x	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	1	1	..	1	1	x	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Betula allegheniensis</i>	5	17	10	15	4	1	x	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	..	x	..	..	x	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	..	..	20	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	20	22	34	62	18	x	x	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Halesia monticola</i>	5	8	4	1	9	13	3	1	1	..	..	..
<i>Ilex montana</i>	1	x	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	1	x	1	3	8	3	x	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	..	x	..	x	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Quercus borealis</i>	..	1	..	..	2	40	10	4	15	11	2	1
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	..	1	..	..	1	6	37	21	13	10	8	1
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Betula lenta</i>	..	..	1	4	4	1	2	2	..	..	..	..
<i>Clethra acuminata</i>	..	..	..	1	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	..	..	..	..	2	5	17	7	1	..	2	..
<i>Cornus florida</i>	..	..	..	..	1	..	x	4	..	x	..	..
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	..
<i>Carya glabra</i>	..	..	..	..	..	4	x	2	6	5	..	..
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
<i>Carya ovalis</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	x	..	..	..	..
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	4	1	2	7	..
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	..	x	1	..	..	1	3	8	14	16	1	1
<i>Castanea dentata</i> (dead)	..	..	..	..	2	5	7	9	10	12	1	..
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	4	x	..
<i>Quercus alba</i>	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	8	24	10	x	..
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	1	3	8	3	x
<i>Quercus prinus</i>	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	15	4	16	11	1
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	x	x	1	1	..	..
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	1	11	46
<i>Pinus pungens</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	54	49
Percents by classes	98	98	95	90	78	22	5	3	1	..	..	..
Mesic	98	98	95	90	19	62	70	44	39	26	12	2
Submesic	2	2	4	9	2	16	23	46	58	69	23	2
Subxeric	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Xeric	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	2	5	65	96
Trees in stations	377	597	520	232	449	594	472	266	369	378	297	355
Site-samples used	1	7	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4



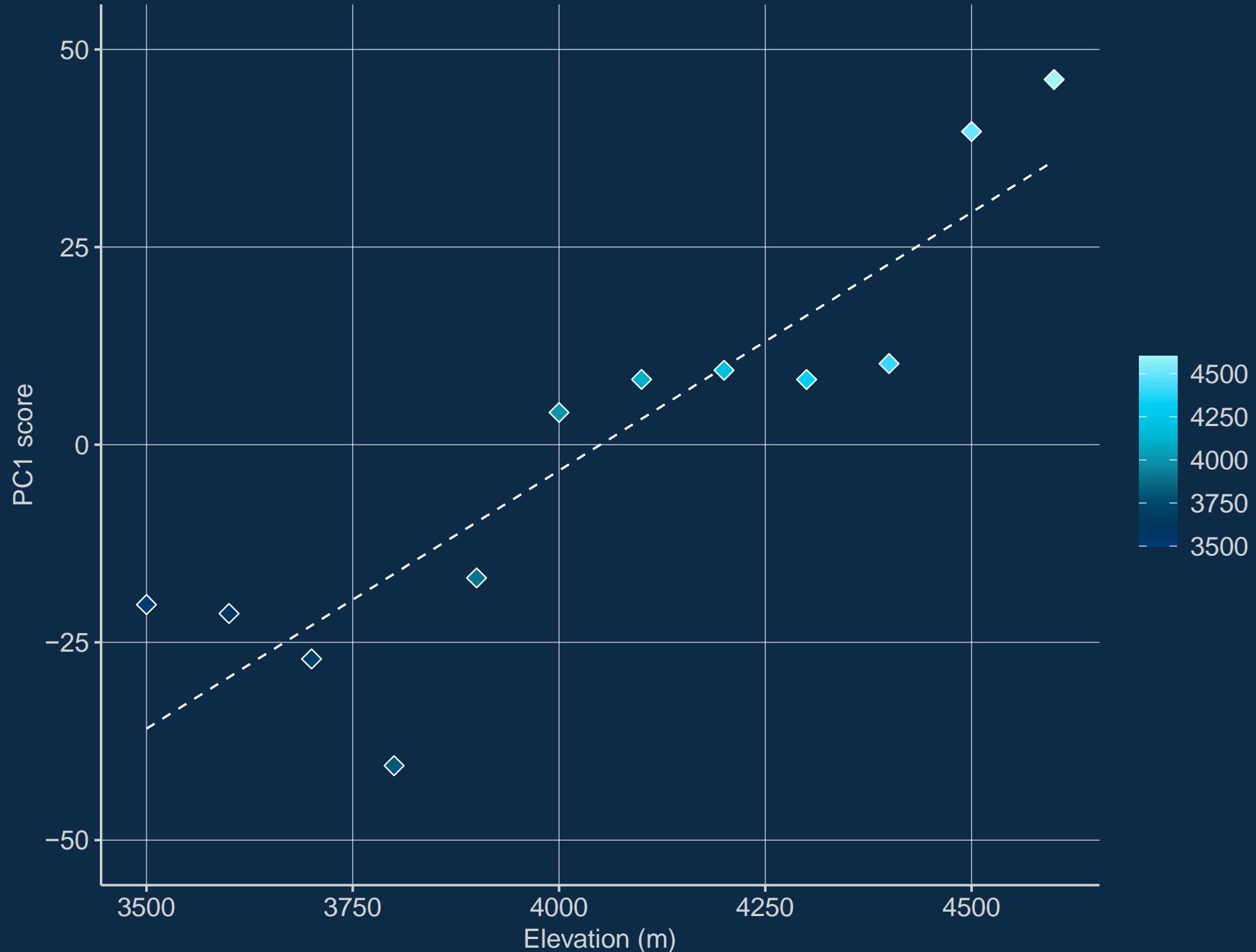
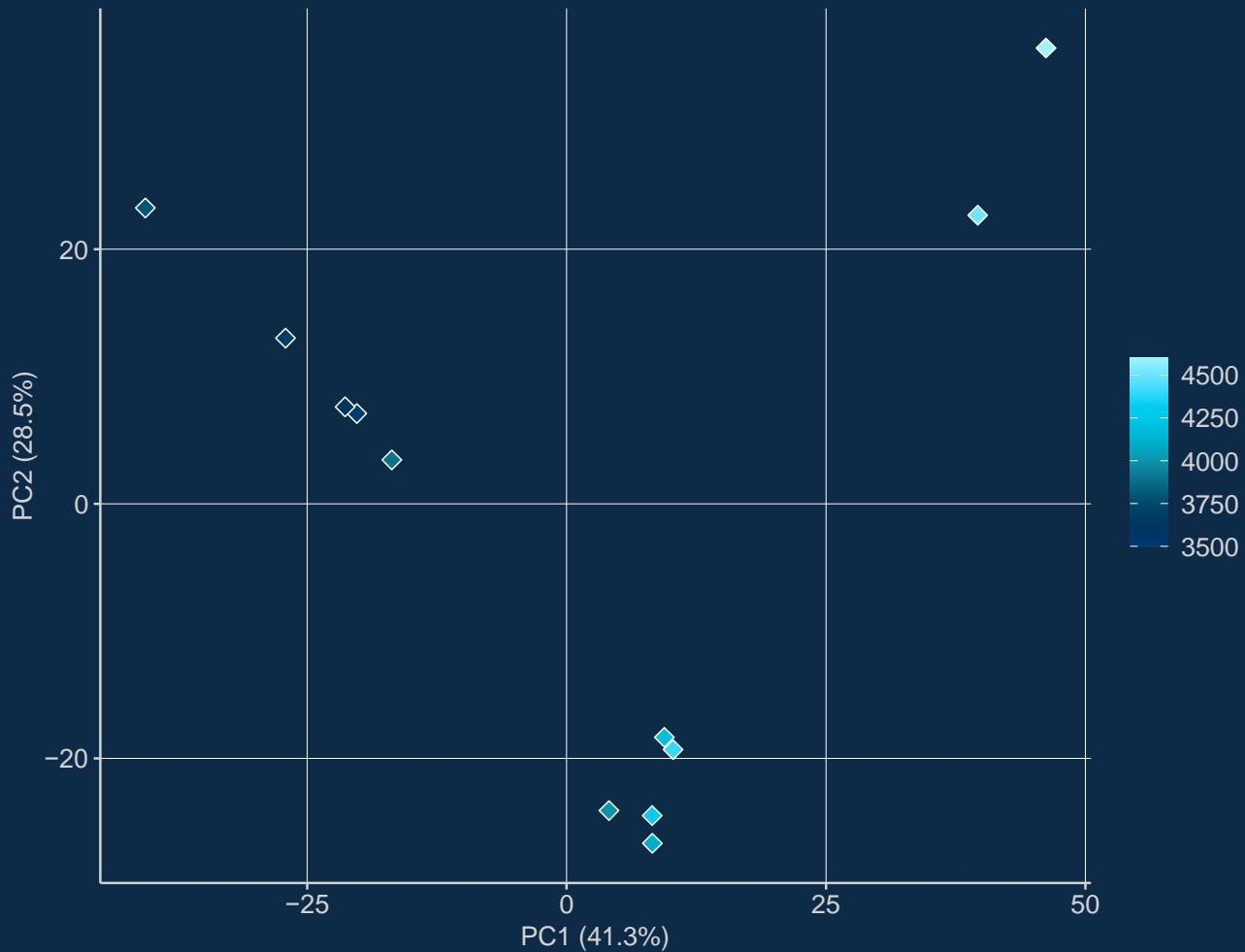
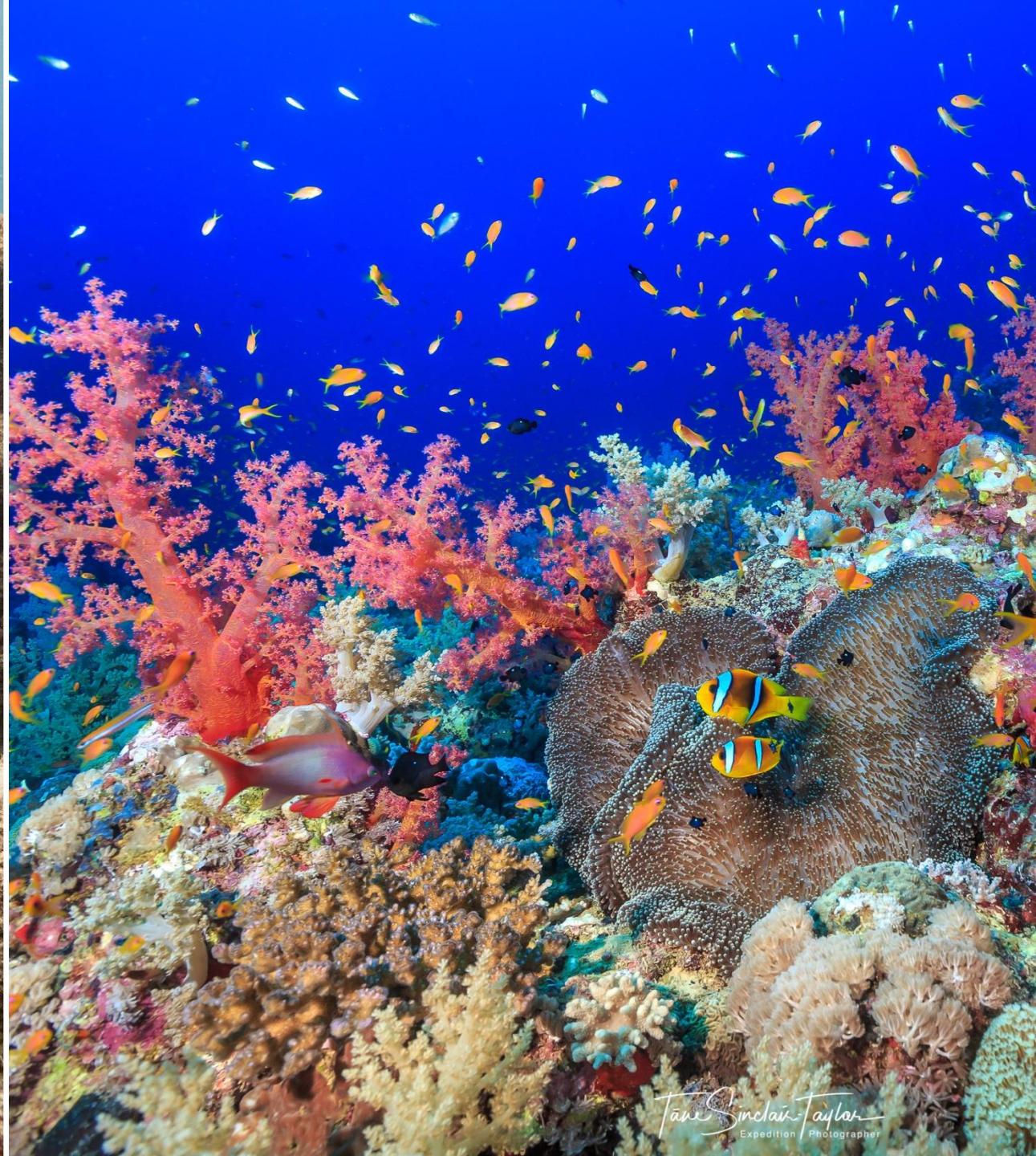


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<i>Ilex opaca</i>	..	1	..	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Picea rubens</i>	..	x	..	x	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	1	1	..	x	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Aesculus octandra</i>	8	9	4	2	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Tilia heterophylla</i>	29	11	9	1	14	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	16	11	11	..	17	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	17	7	1	1	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	2	1	..	1	x	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	1	1	..	1	1	x	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Betula allegheniensis</i>	5	17	10	15	4	1	x	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	..	x	..	..	x	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	..	..	20	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	20	22	34	62	18	x	x	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Halesia monticola</i>	5	8	4	1	9	13	3	1	1	..	..	..
<i>Ilex montana</i>	1	x	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	1	x	1	3	8	3	x	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	..	x	..	x	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Quercus borealis</i>	..	1	..	..	2	40	10	4	15	11	2	1
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	..	1	..	..	1	6	37	21	13	10	8	1
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Betula lenta</i>	..	..	1	4	4	1	2	2	..	..	..	..
<i>Clethra acuminata</i>	..	..	..	1	x	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	..	..	..	..	2	5	17	7	1	..	2	..
<i>Cornus florida</i>	..	..	..	..	1	..	x	4	..	x	..	..
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	..
<i>Carya glabra</i>	..	..	..	..	..	4	x	2	6	5	..	..
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
<i>Carya ovalis</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	x	..	..	..	..
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	4	1	2	7	..
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	..	x	1	..	..	1	3	8	14	16	1	1
<i>Castanea dentata</i> (dead)	..	..	..	..	2	5	7	9	10	12	1	..
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	4	x	..
<i>Quercus alba</i>	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	8	24	10	x	..
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	1	3	8	3	x
<i>Quercus prinus</i>	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	15	4	16	11	1
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	x	x	1	1	..	..
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	1	11	46
<i>Pinus pungens</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	54	49
Percents by classes	98	98	95	90	78	22	5	3	1	..	..	..
Mesic	98	98	95	90	19	62	70	44	39	26	12	2
Submesic	2	2	4	9	2	16	23	46	58	69	23	2
Subxeric	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Xeric	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	2	5	65	96
Trees in stations	377	597	520	232	449	594	472	266	369	378	297	355
Site-samples used	1	7	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4





Tami Sinclair Taylor  
Expedition Photographer



# Gobies (Family Gobiidae)

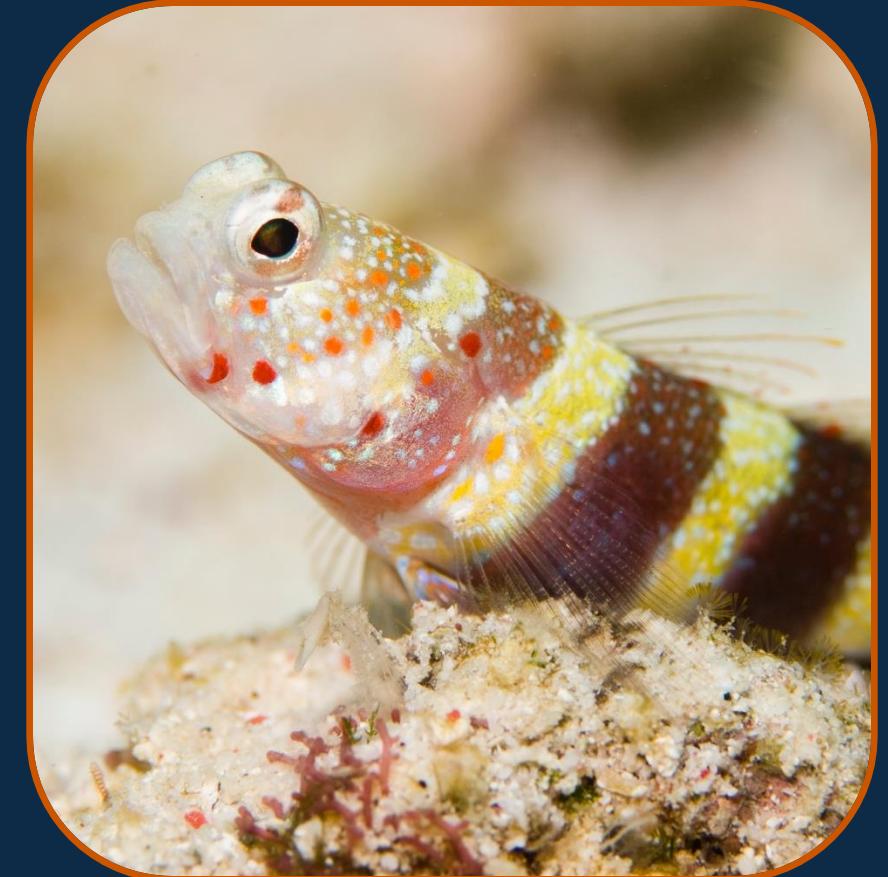


# Modeling dynamics

*Amblyeleotris guttata*



*Amblyeleotris wheeleri*



Competition!

# Modeling dynamics



Models: Mathematical basis for population dynamics (e.g. Lotka-Volterra)

# Modeling dynamics

$N$  = population size

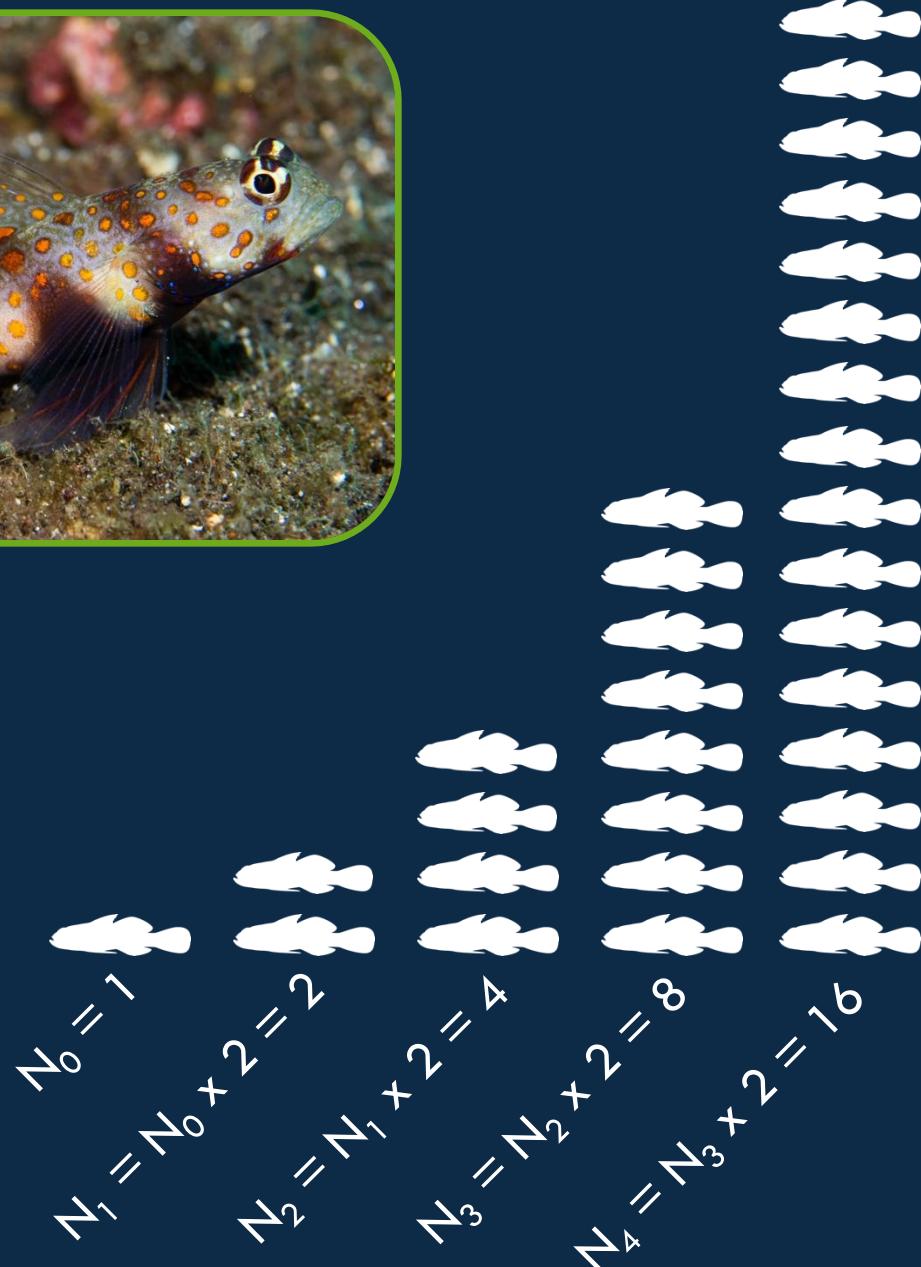
subscript = time

$N_t$  = population at time t

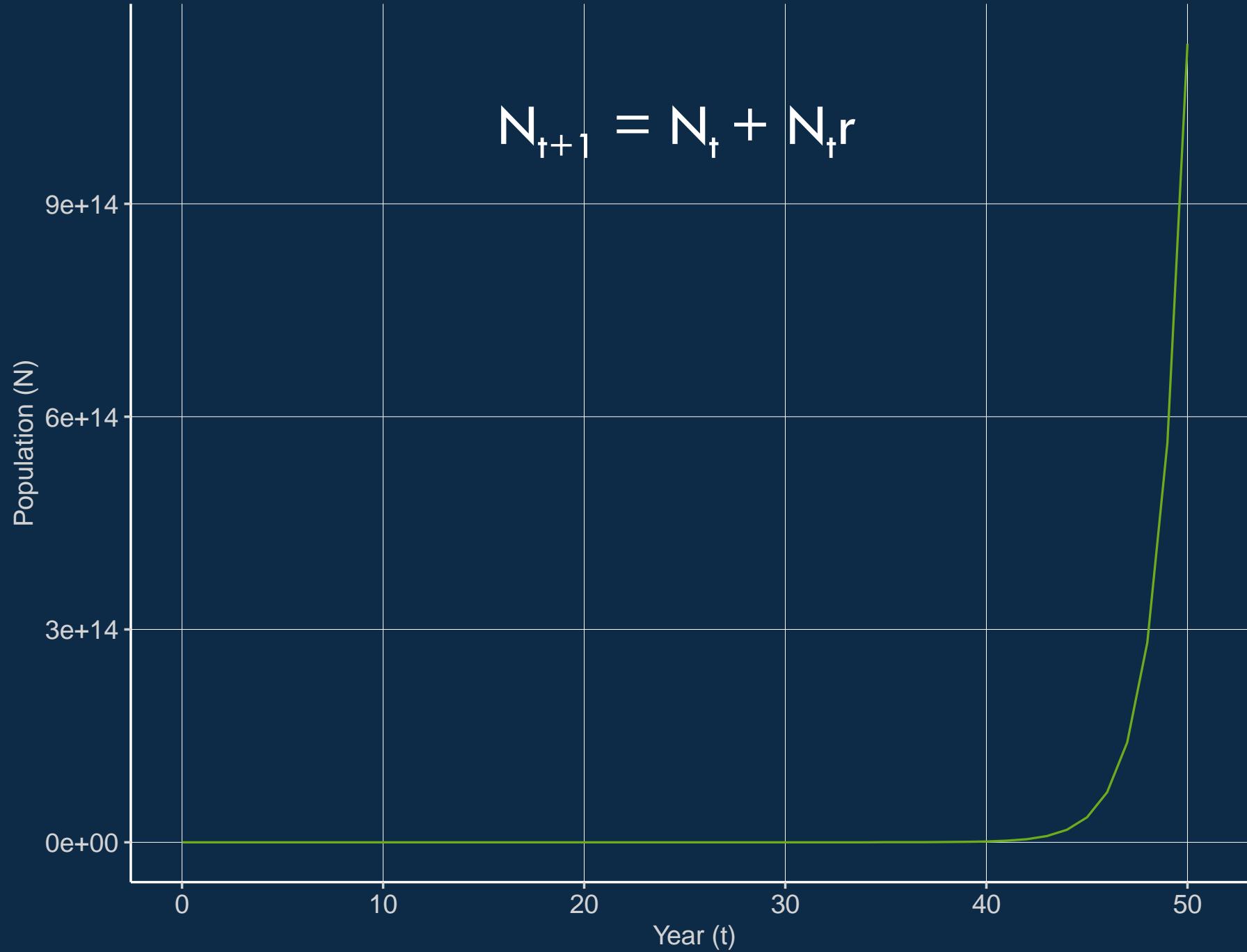
r = population growth rate

$$N_{t+1} = N_t + N_t r$$

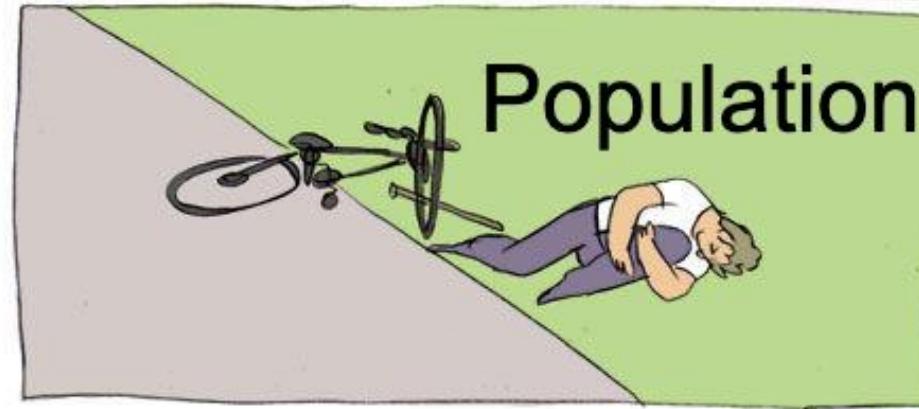
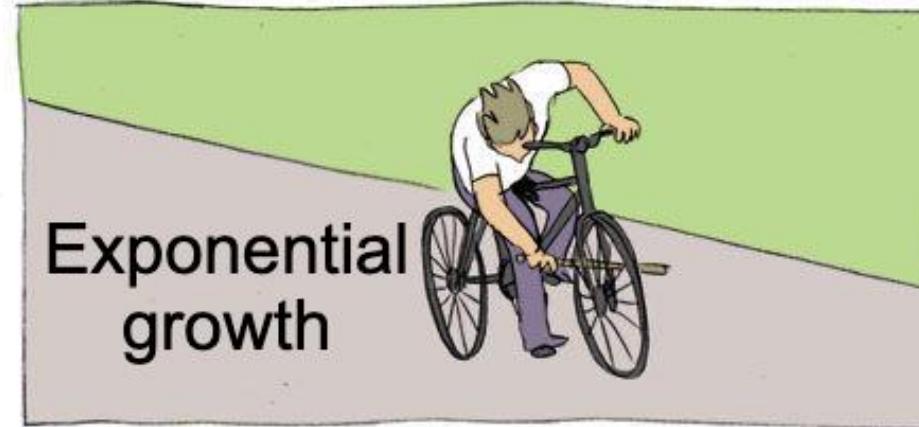
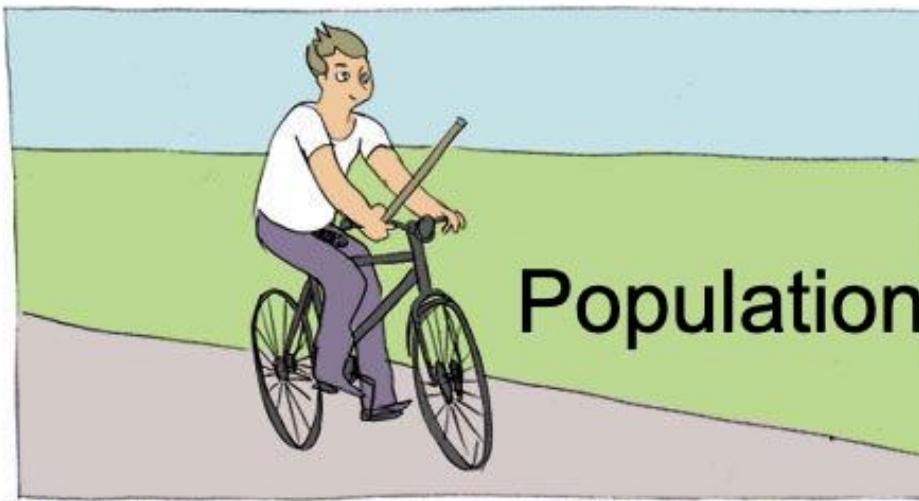
→ exponential equation



$$N_{t+1} = N_t + N_t r$$



**900 trillion gobies**



# Modeling dynamics

$N$  = population size

subscript = time

$N_t$  = population at time  $t$

$r$  = population growth rate

$K$  = carrying capacity

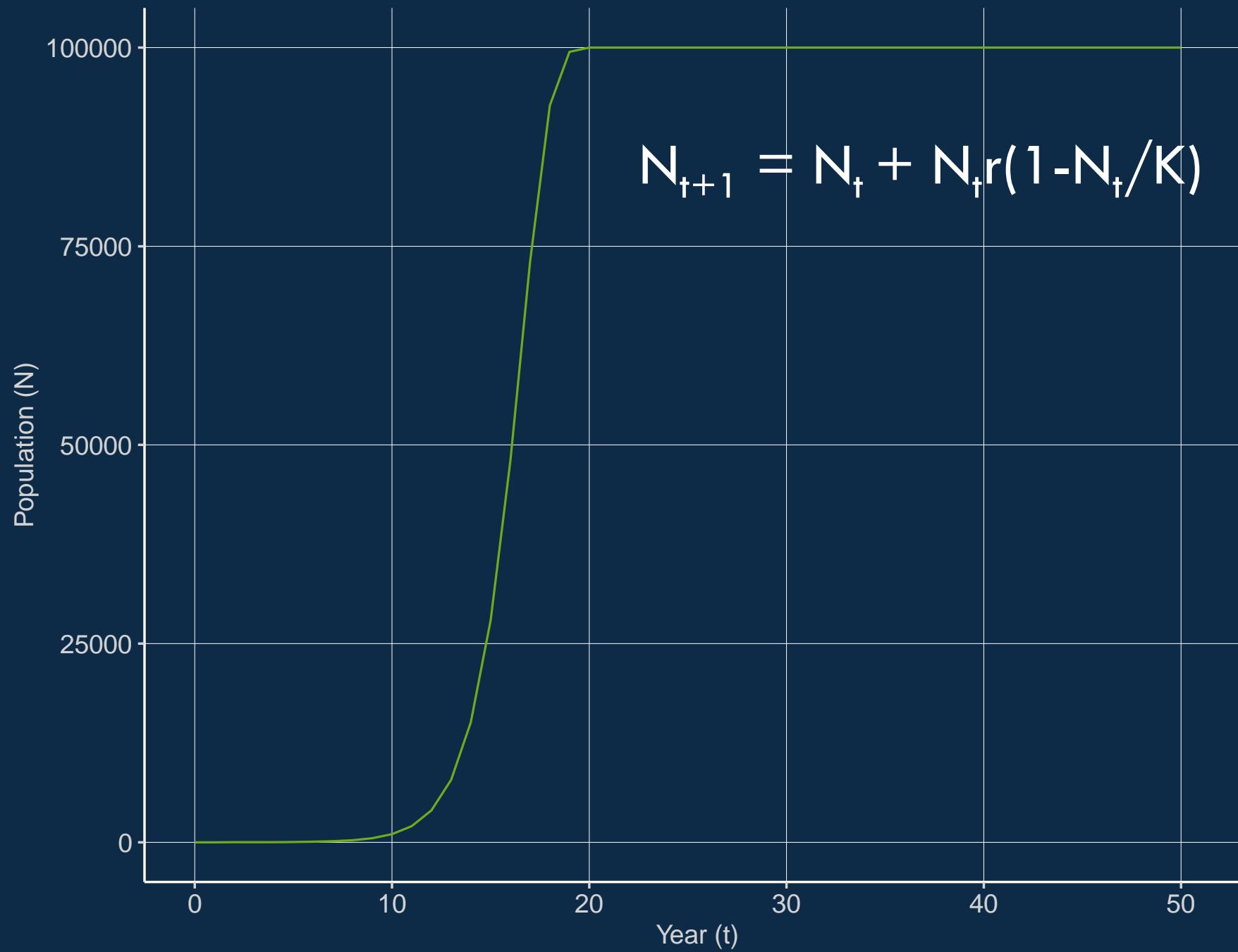
$1 - N_t/K$  = how far from carrying capacity

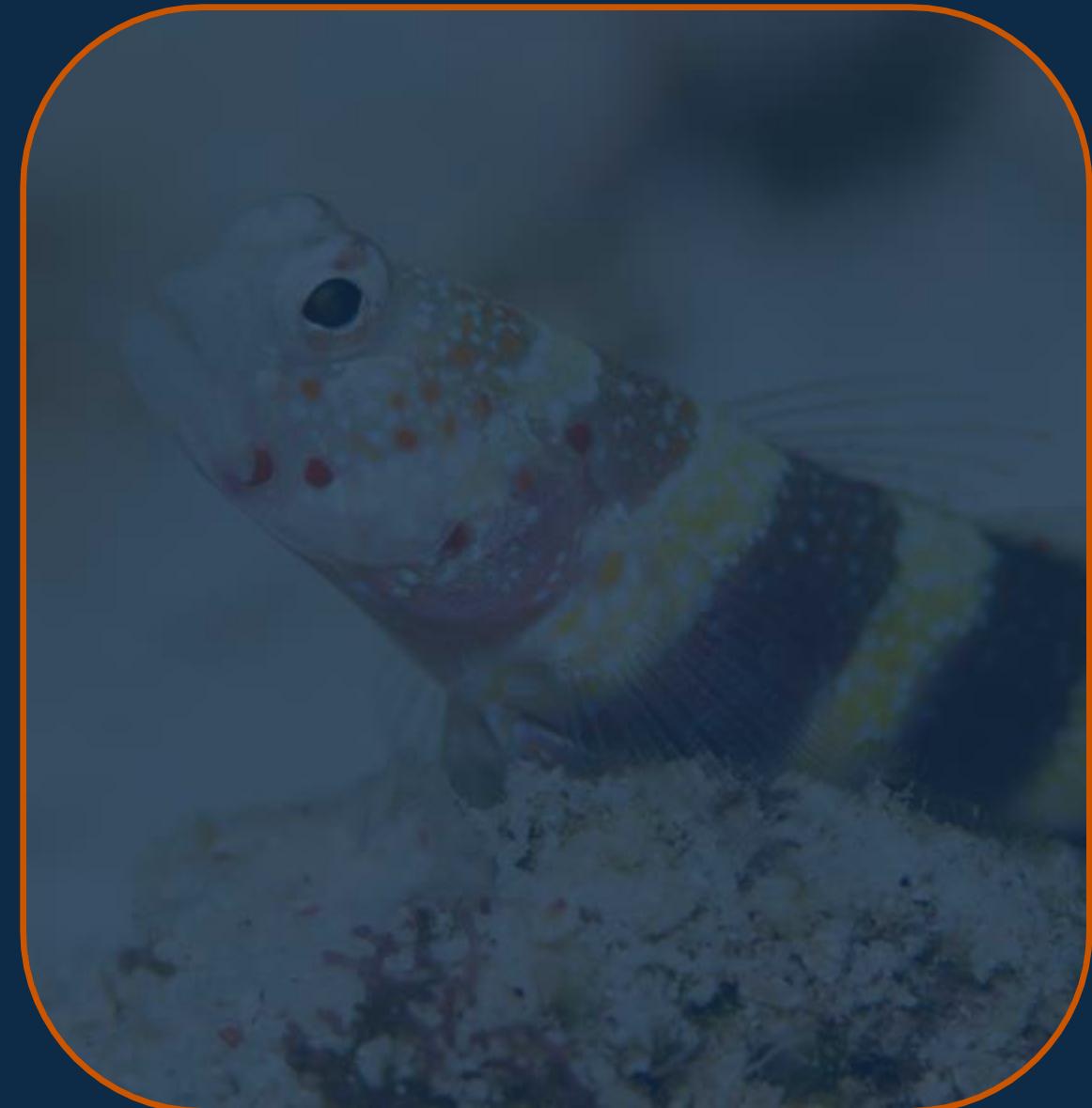
$r(1 - N_t/K)$  = real population growth

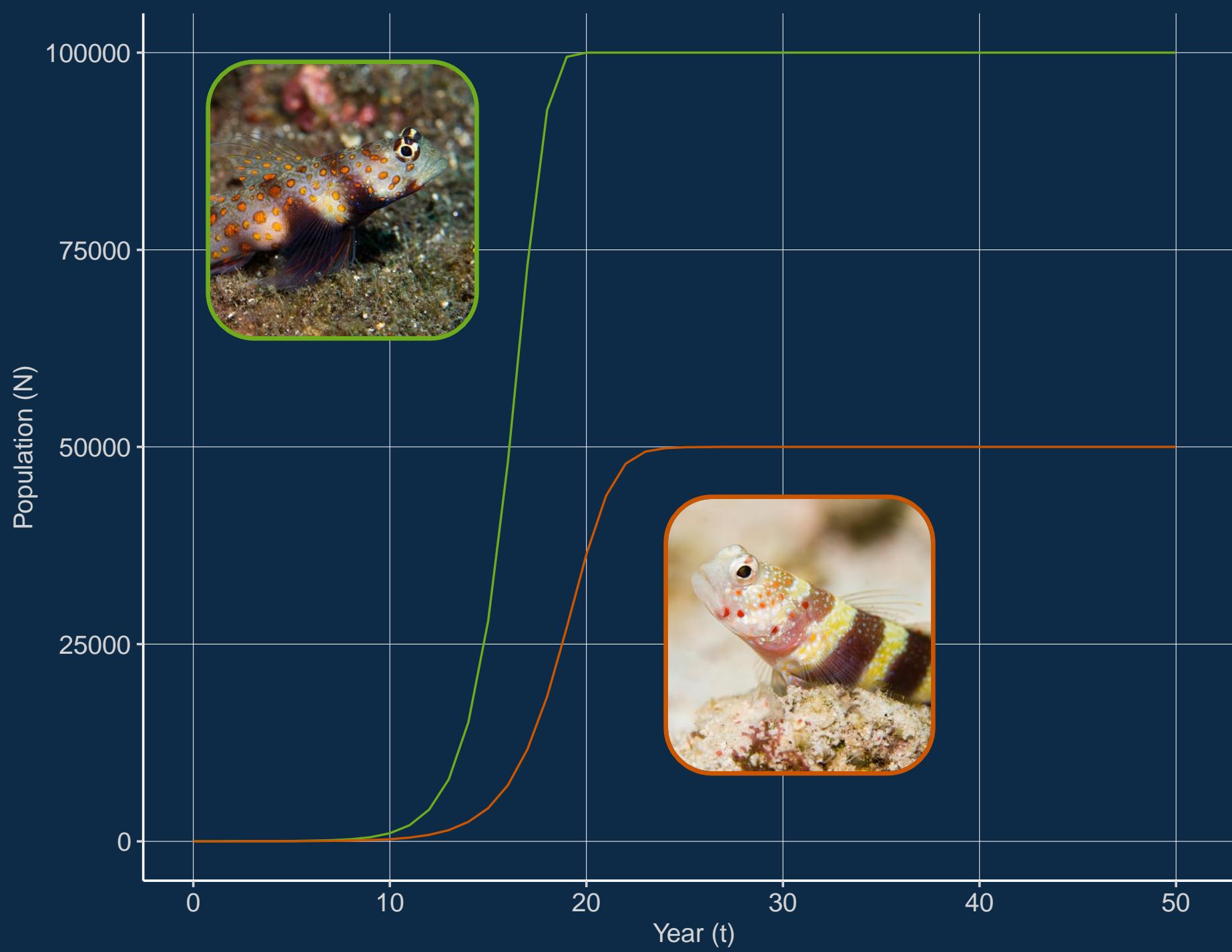
$$N_{t+1} = N_t + N_t r(1 - N_t/K)$$

→ logistic equation









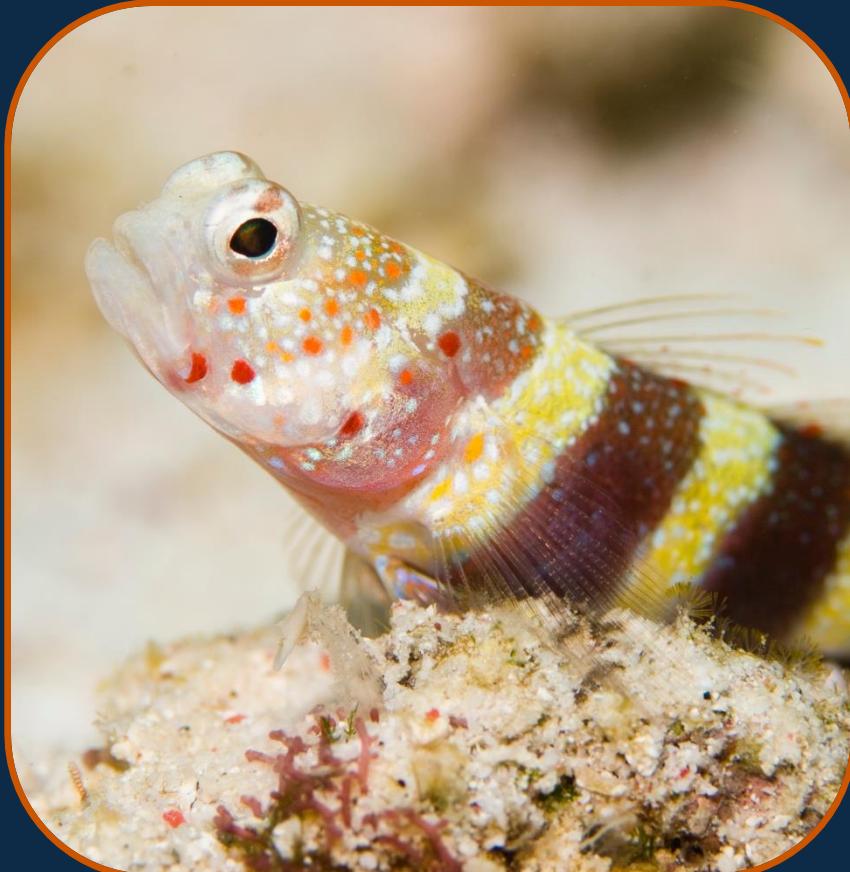
# Modeling dynamics



$N_1$

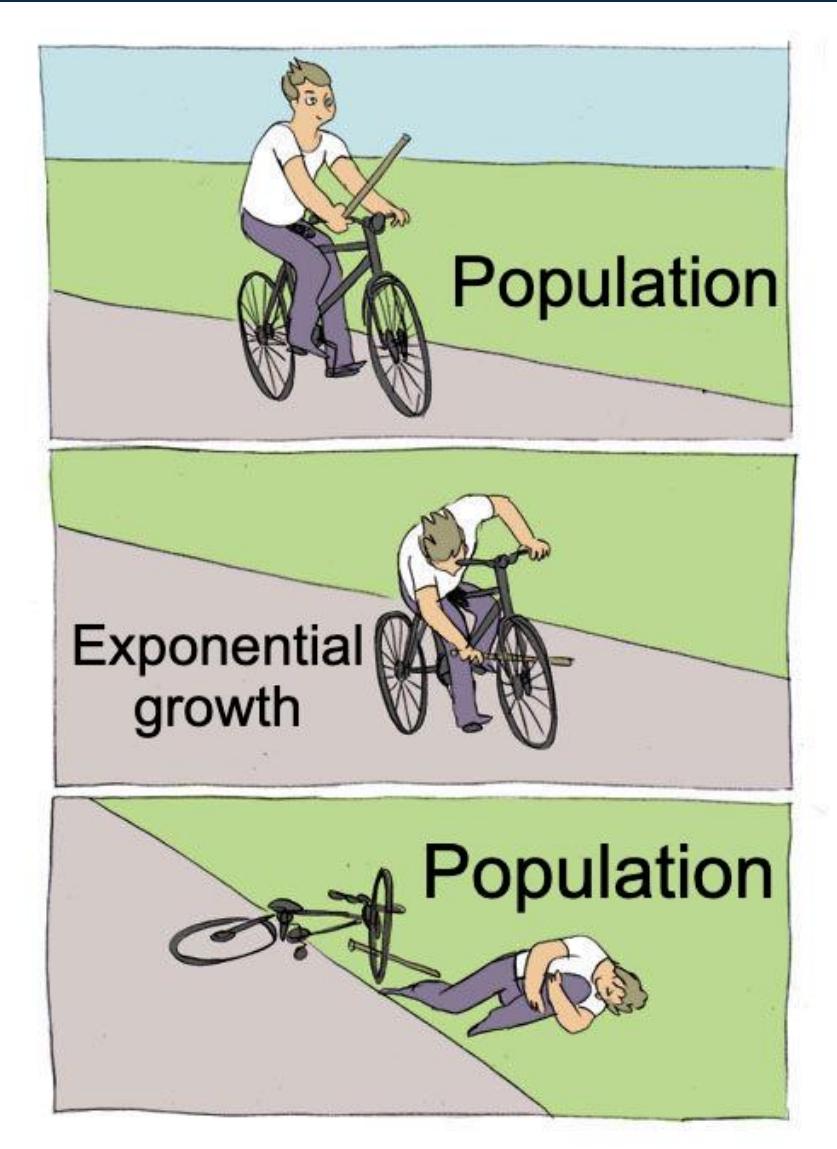
$\alpha_{12}$

competition  
coefficient



$N_2$

# Modeling dynamics



# Modeling dynamics



$N_1$

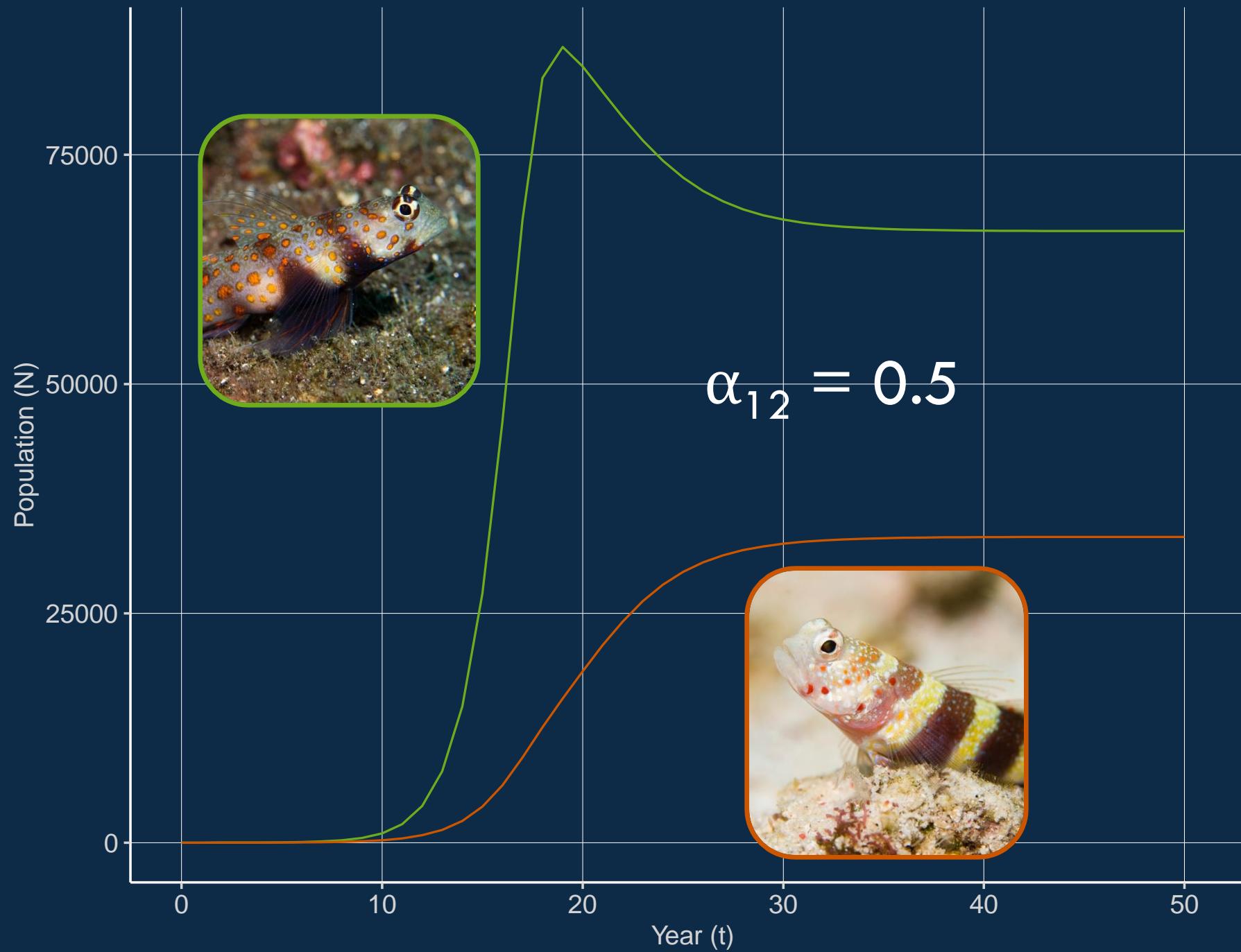
$$\alpha_{12} = 0.5$$

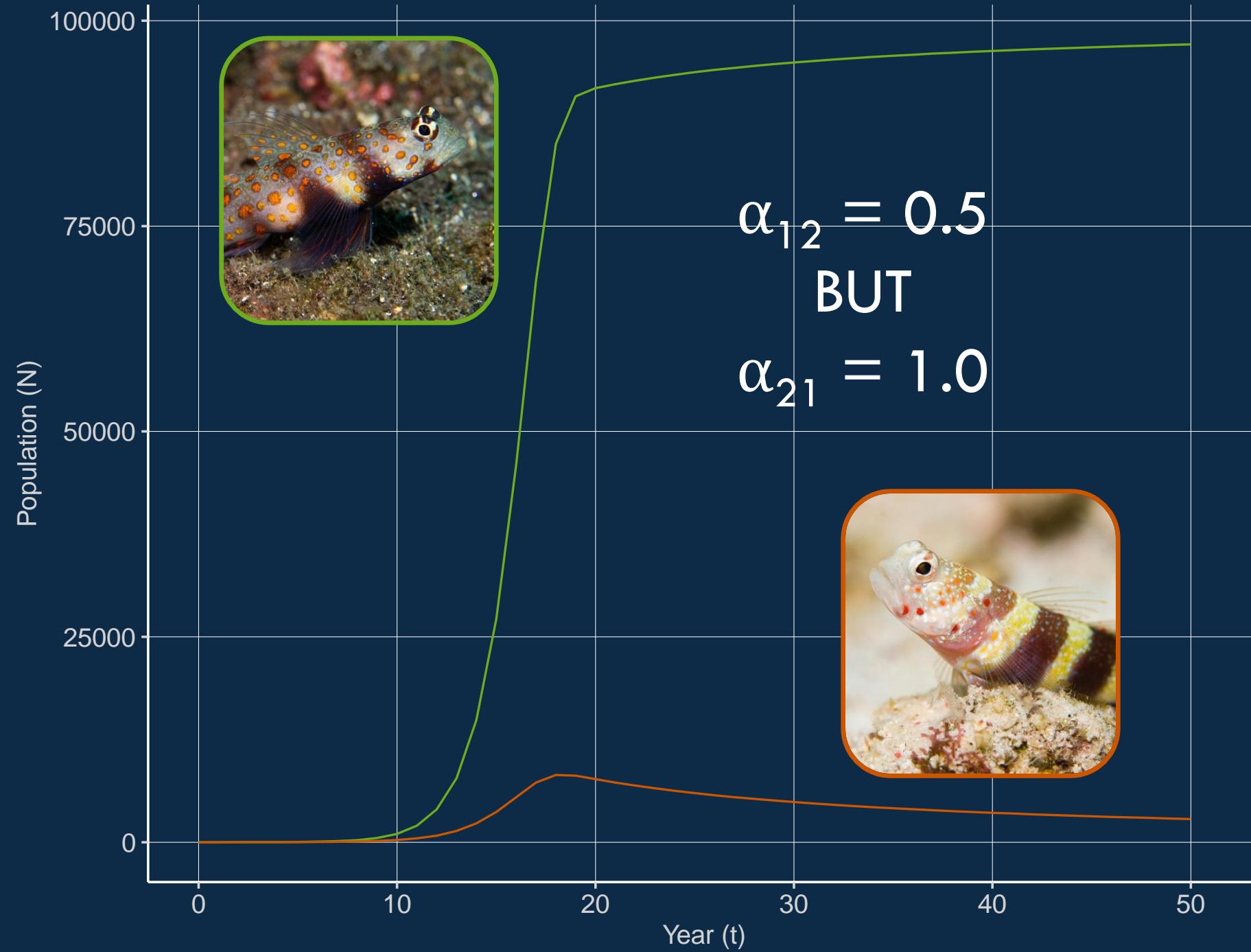
←

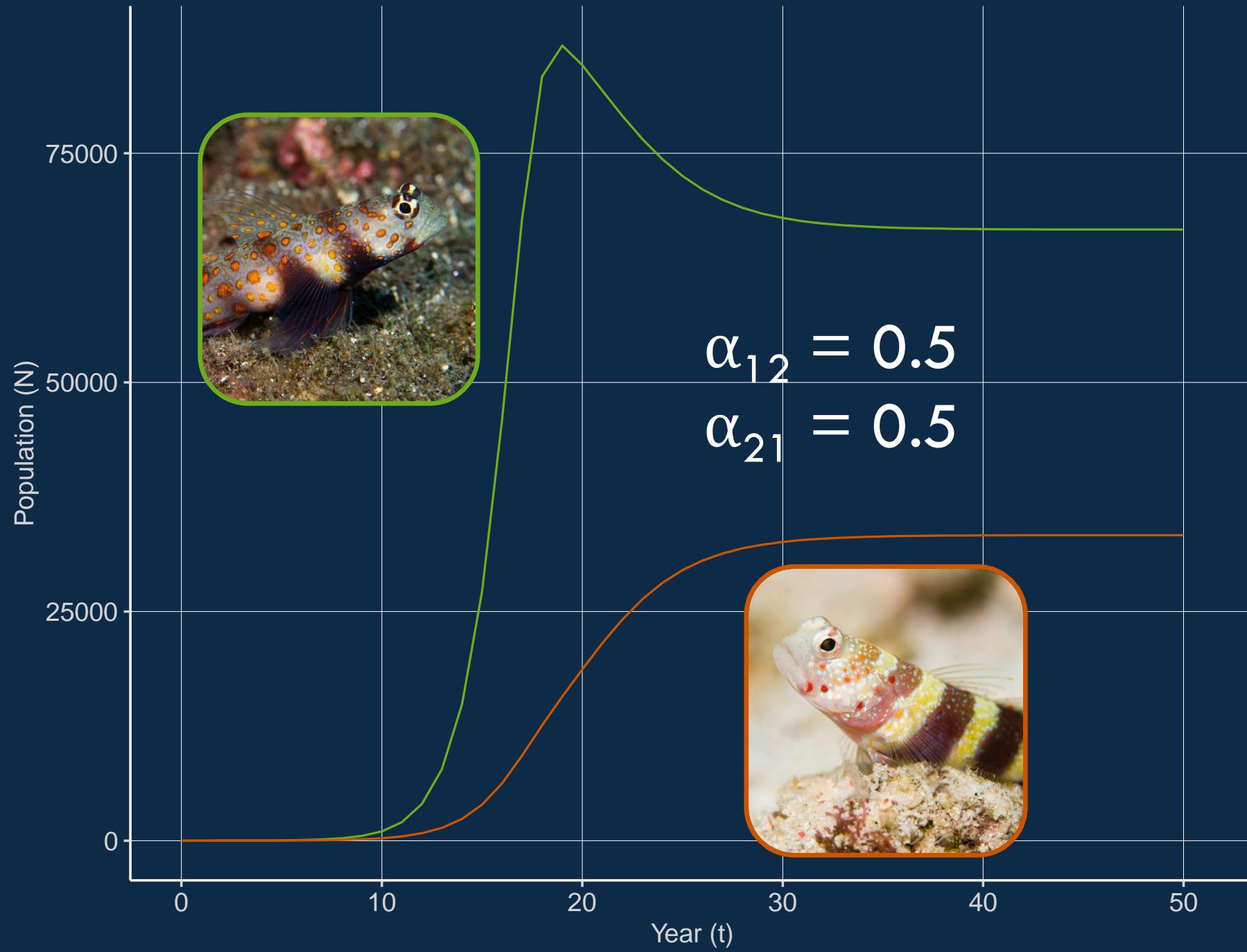


$N_2$

$$N_{1(t+1)} = N_{1(t)} + N_{1(t)} r(1 - N_{1(t)}/K_1 - \alpha_{12} N_{2(t)}/K_1)$$





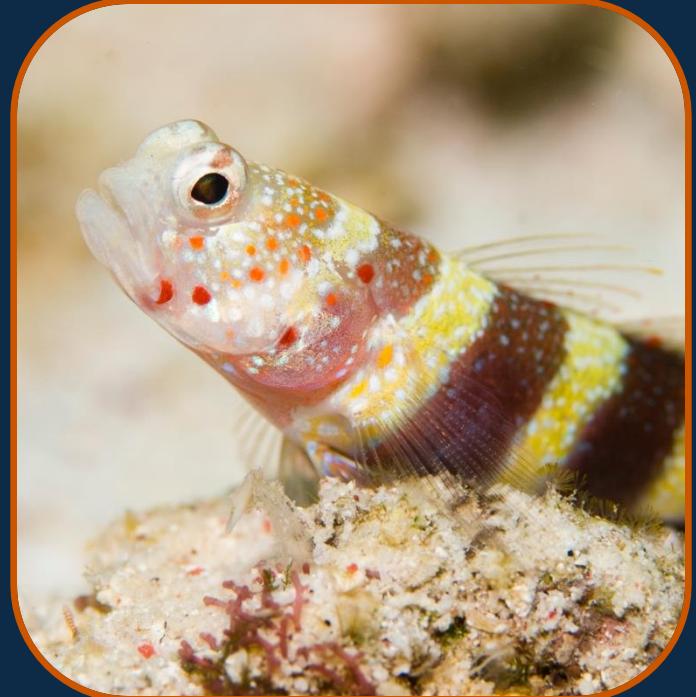


# Modeling dynamics



## Niche differences

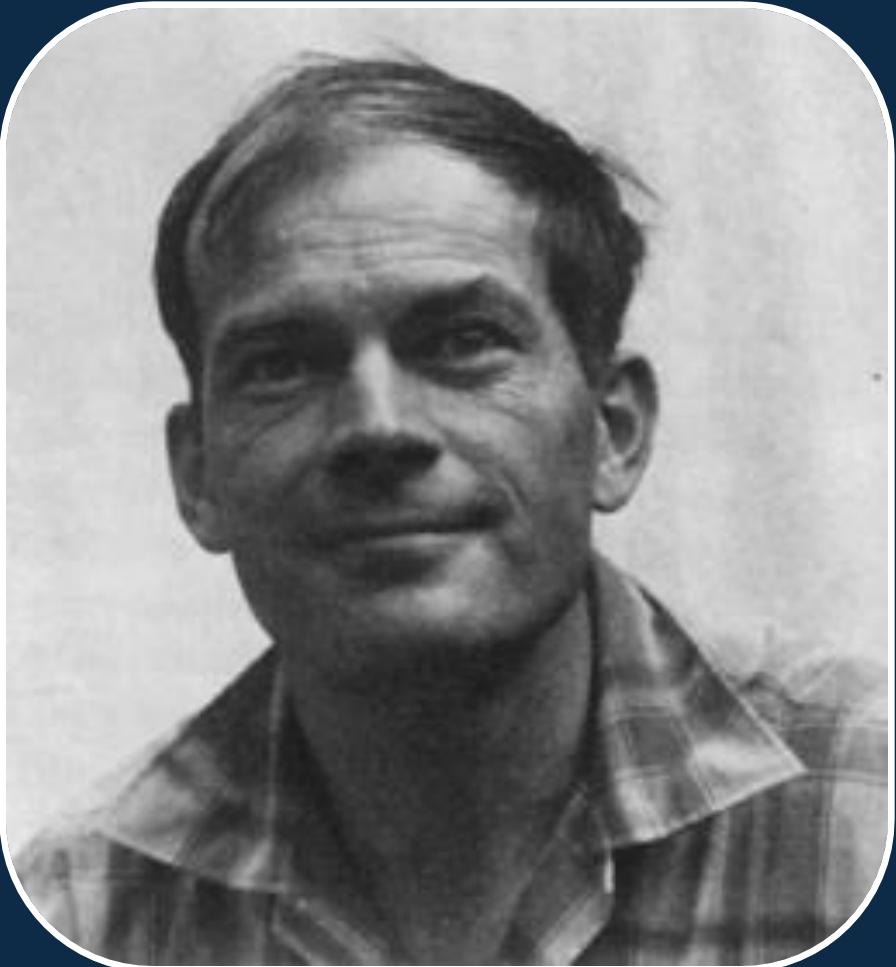
- diet
- habitat
- space
- time



intraspecific competition vs. interspecific competition

# Modeling dynamics

Robert MacArthur

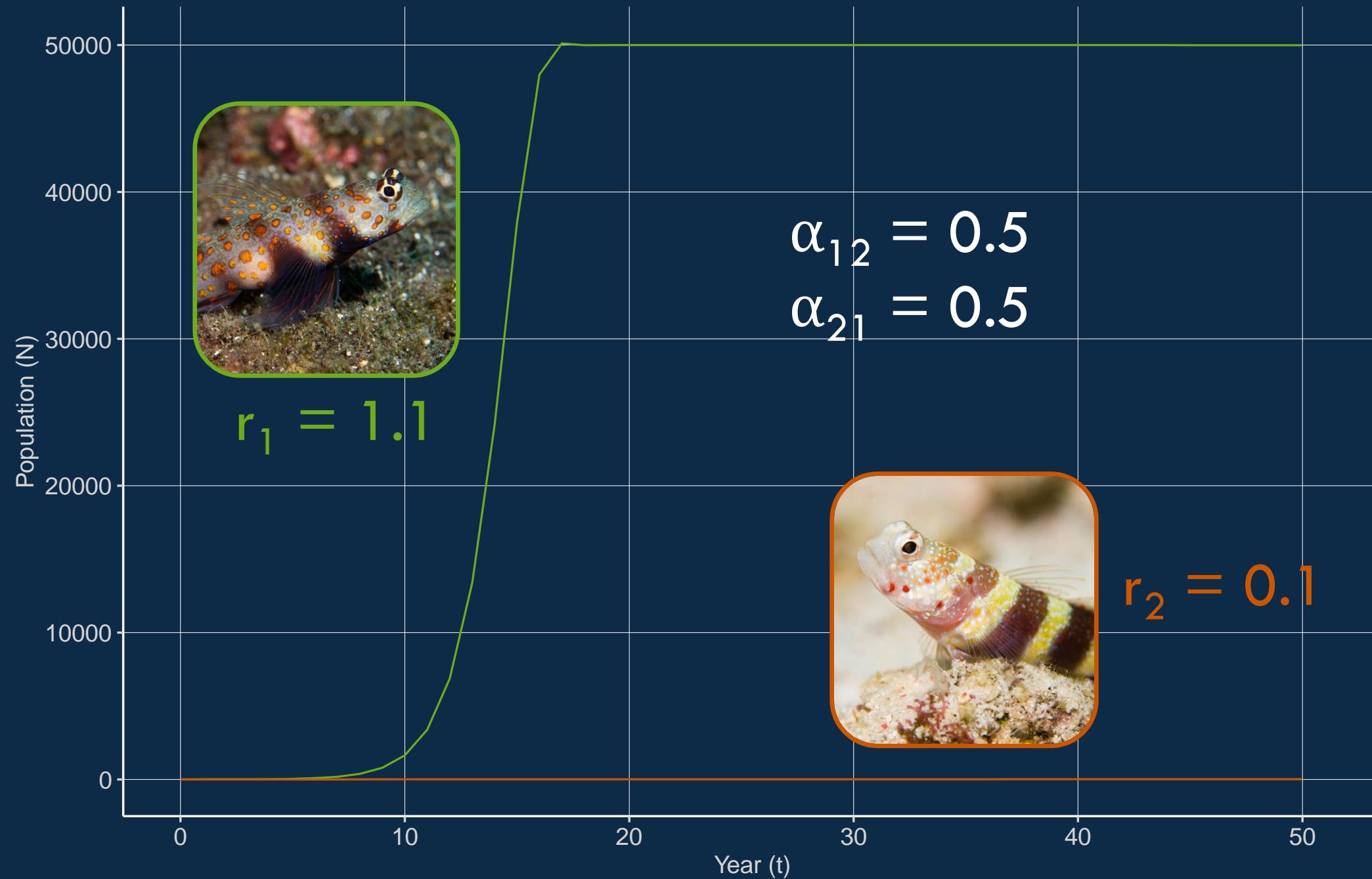


Limiting similarity theory

David Tilman



Resource competition theory



$r_1 = 1.1$

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{12} &= 0.5 \\ \alpha_{21} &= 0.5\end{aligned}$$



$r_2 = 0.1$

# Modeling dynamics



## Fitness differences

- growth rate
- fecundity
- mortality
- energy use



Increased fitness when rare:  
Negative frequency dependence

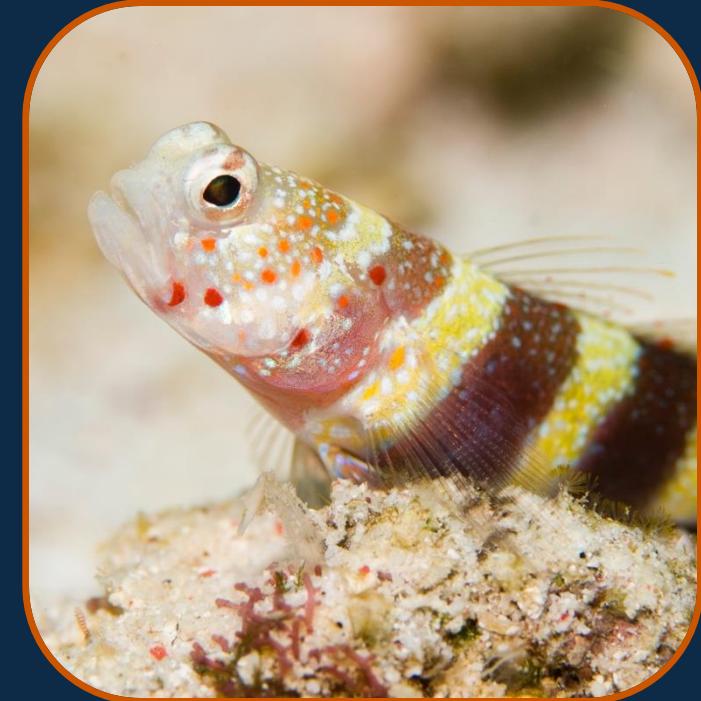
# Modeling dynamics



Niche differences

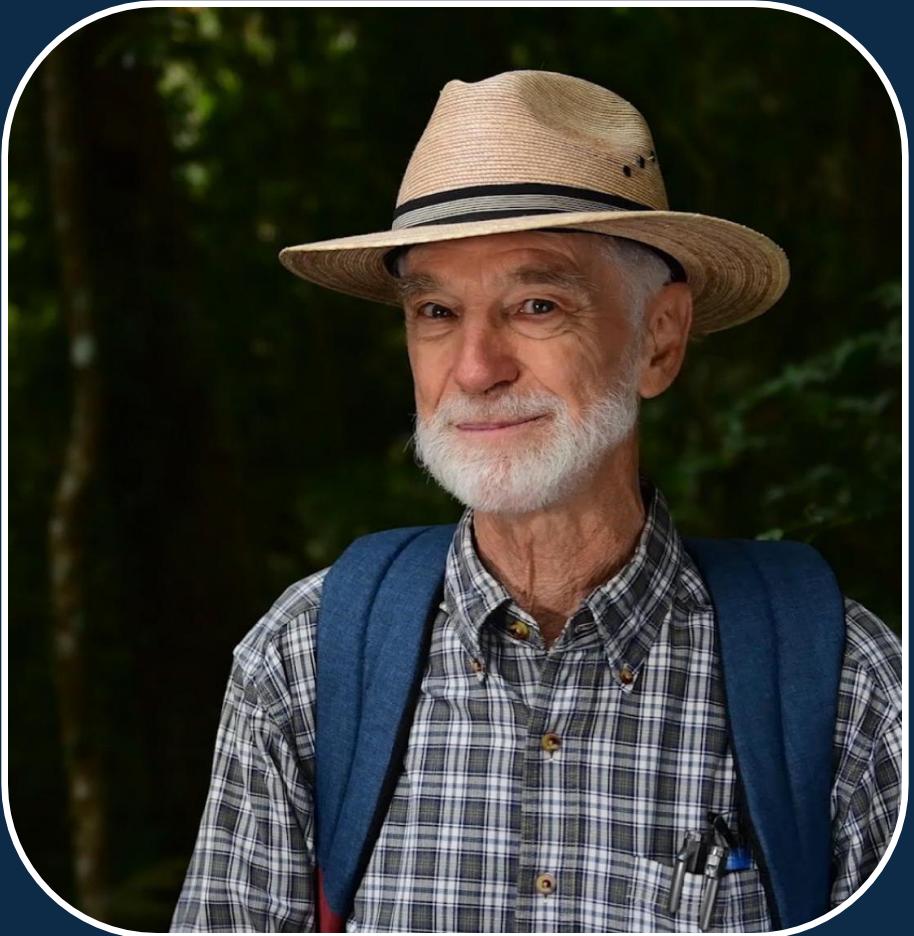
>

Fitness differences



# Modeling dynamics

Peter Chesson



Janneke HilleRisLambers



Modern coexistence theory



The background image shows a clear blue ocean with numerous tropical fish swimming over a coral reef. The fish include several orange and black clownfish, some white and yellow butterflyfish, and other smaller, colorful species. The reef itself is covered in green algae and brownish rock.

Niches & fitness are the deterministic  
drivers of community assembly

# Large Scale Patterns & Processes



$$\alpha_{12} = 0.5$$

$$\alpha_{21} = 0.5$$

$$r_1 = 1$$

$$r_2 = 1$$

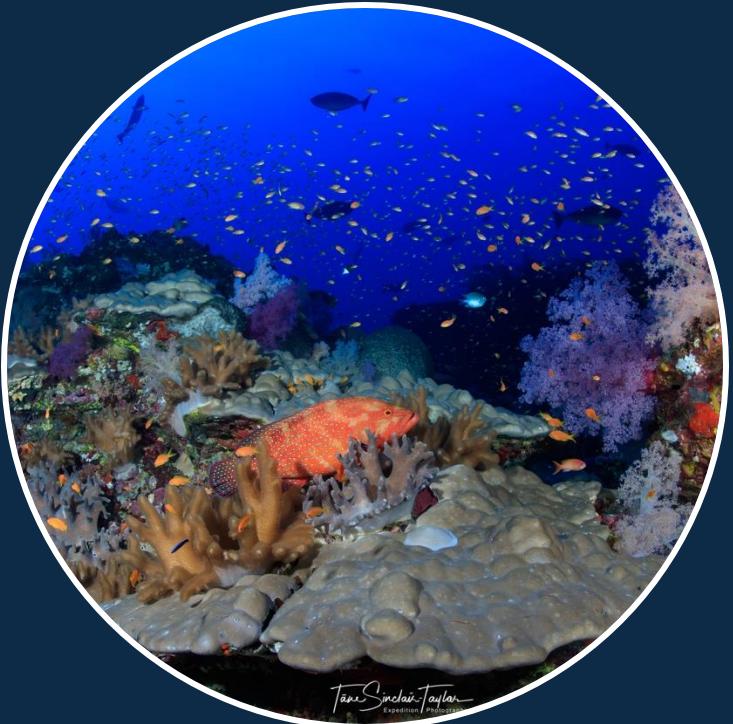
$$K = 50,000$$



What happened? 😢

# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

Local



Regional



Global



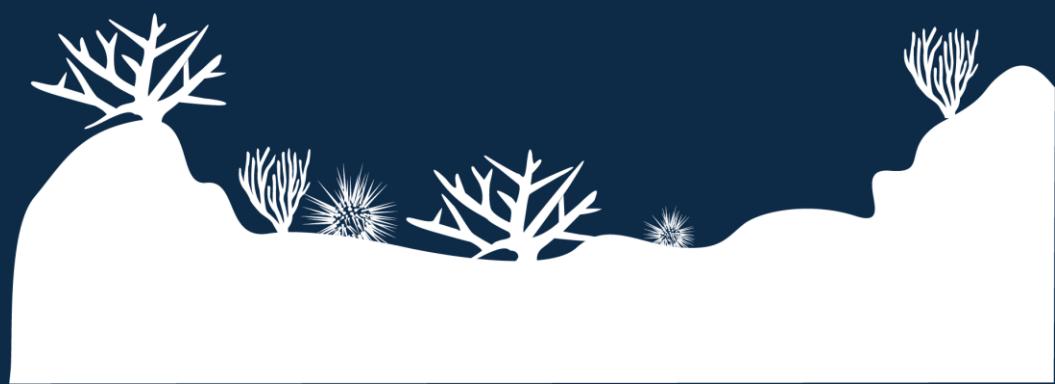
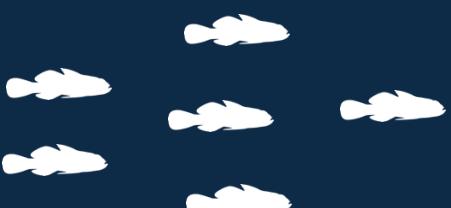
# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

Emigration

Immigration

# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

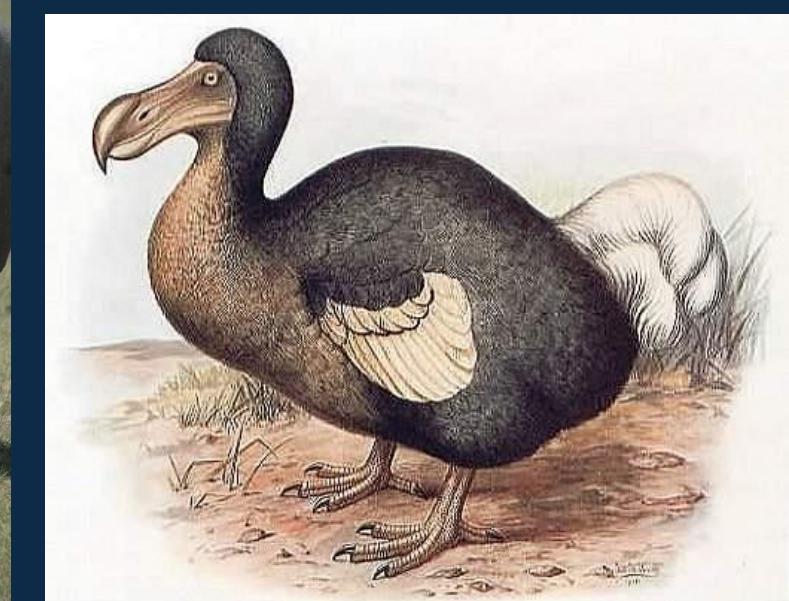
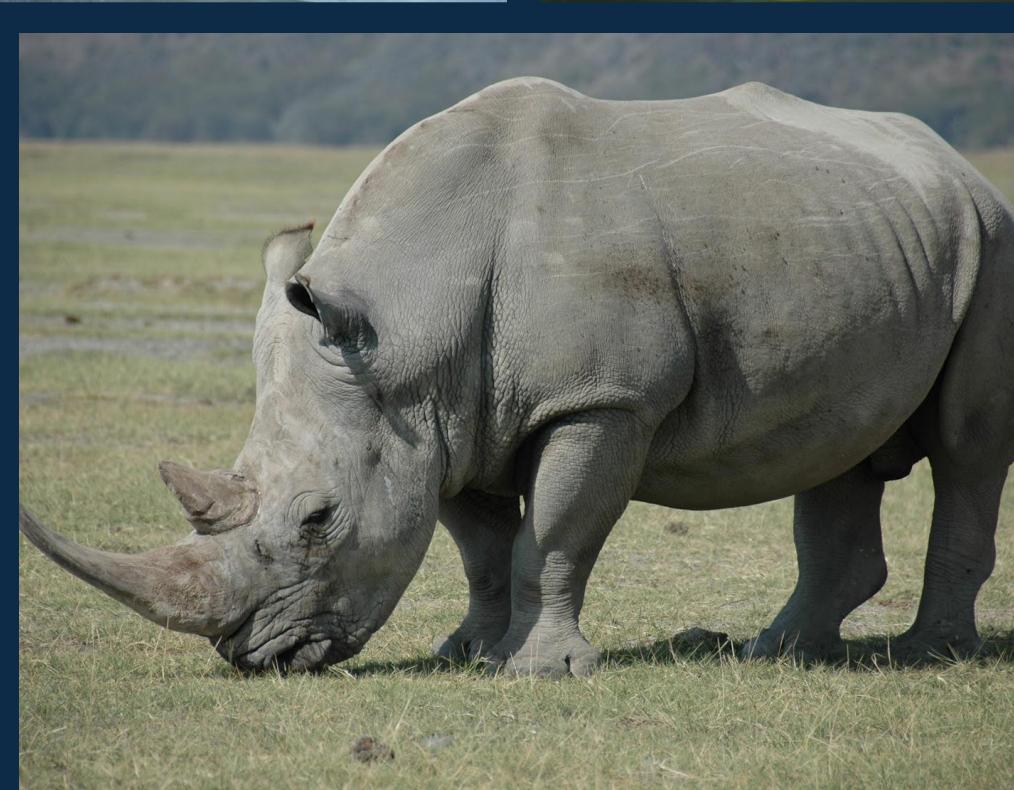
Prevailing current



# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

## Extinction



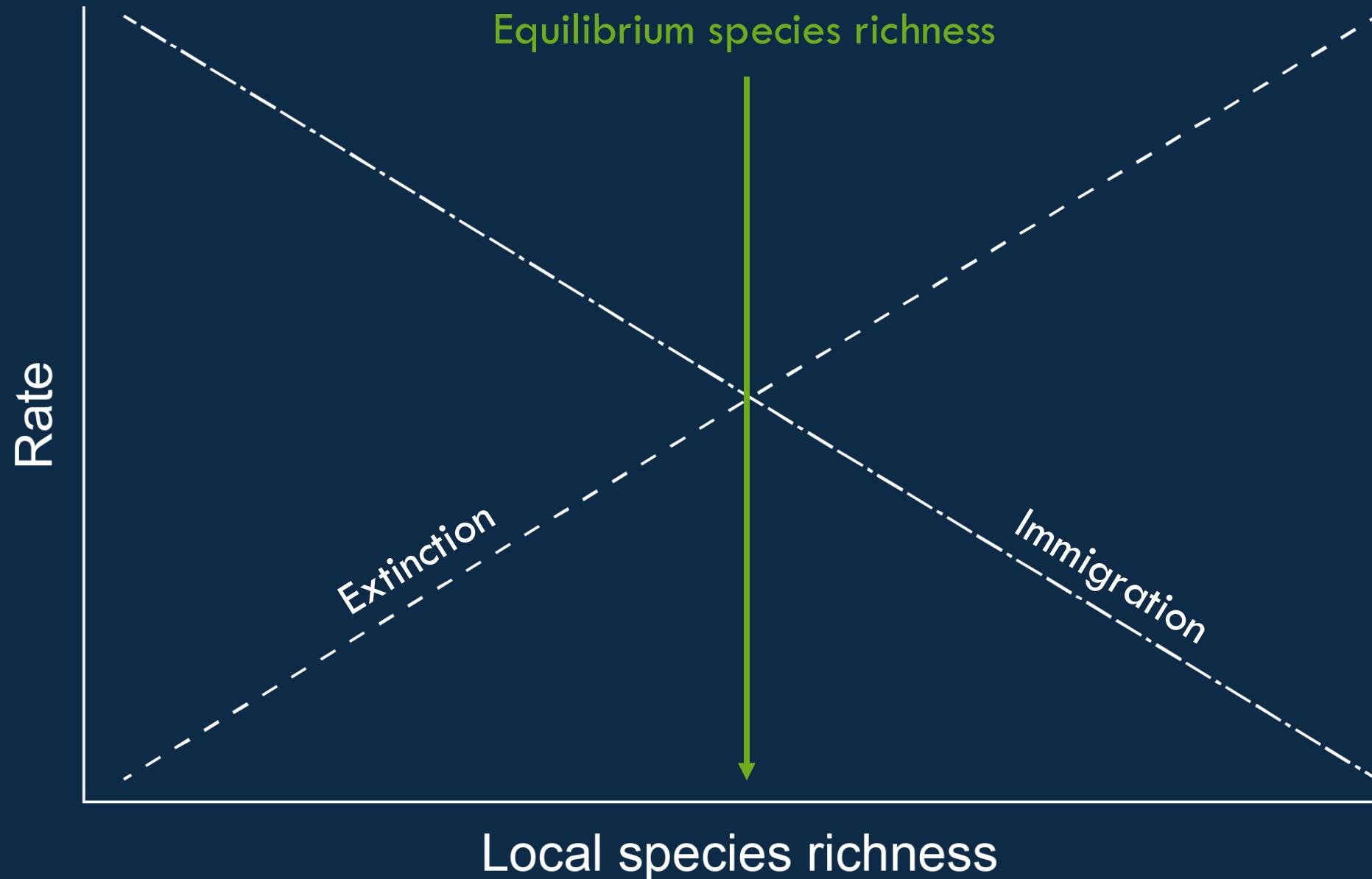


# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

(Local) Extinction



# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

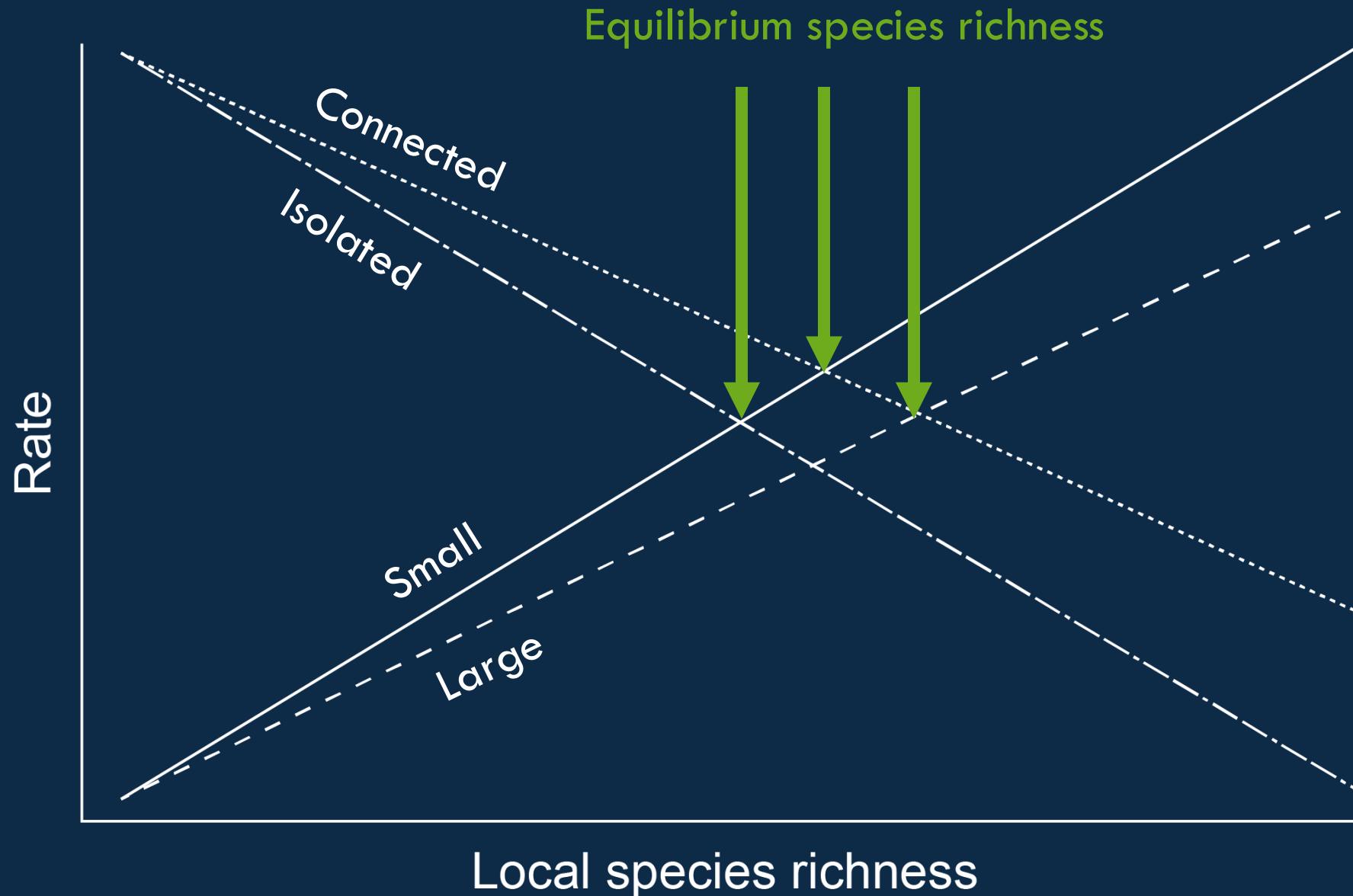




Area

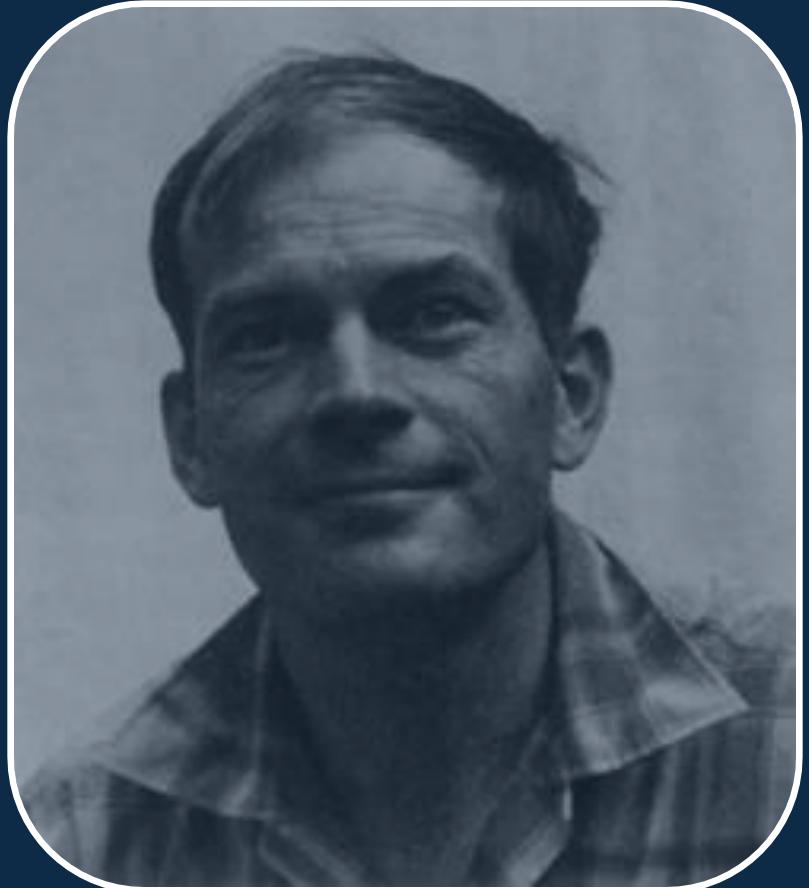
Connectivity

# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

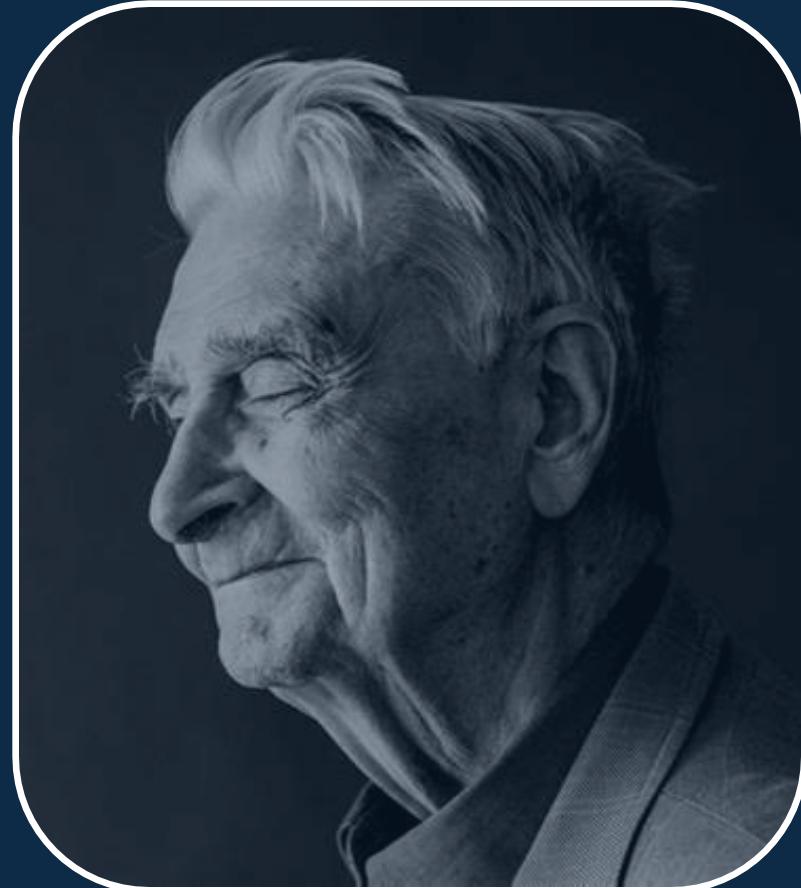


# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

Robert MacArthur



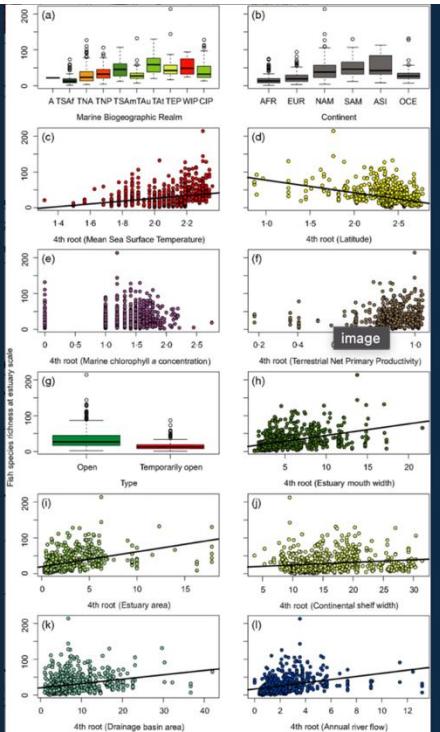
E.O. Wilson



Theory of Island Biogeography

# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

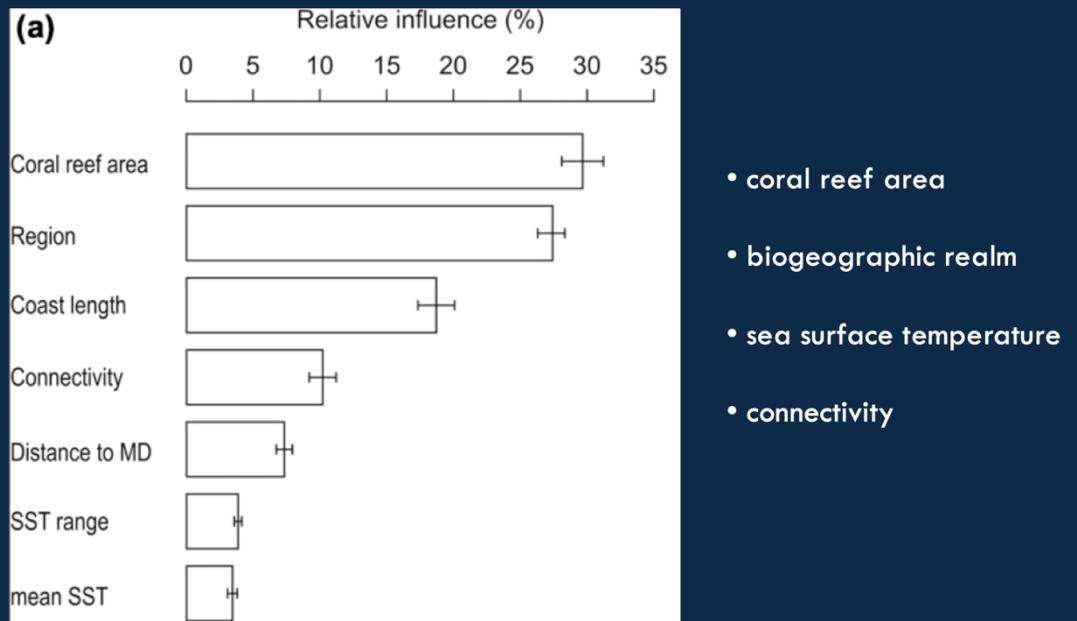
## Estuarine fishes



- biogeographic realm
- sea surface temperature
- estuarine area
- connectivity

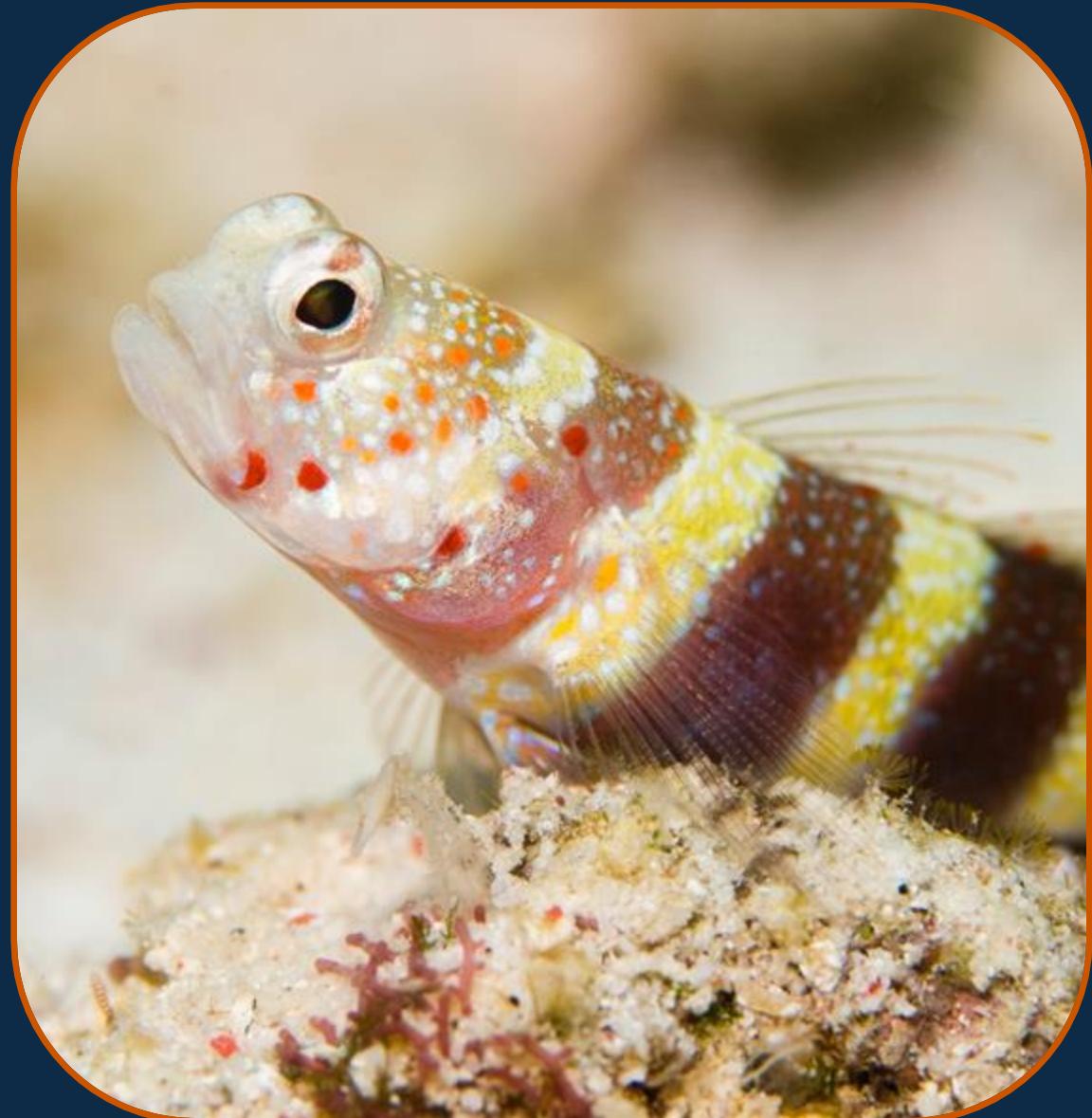
Vasconcelos et al. 2015

## Coral reef fishes



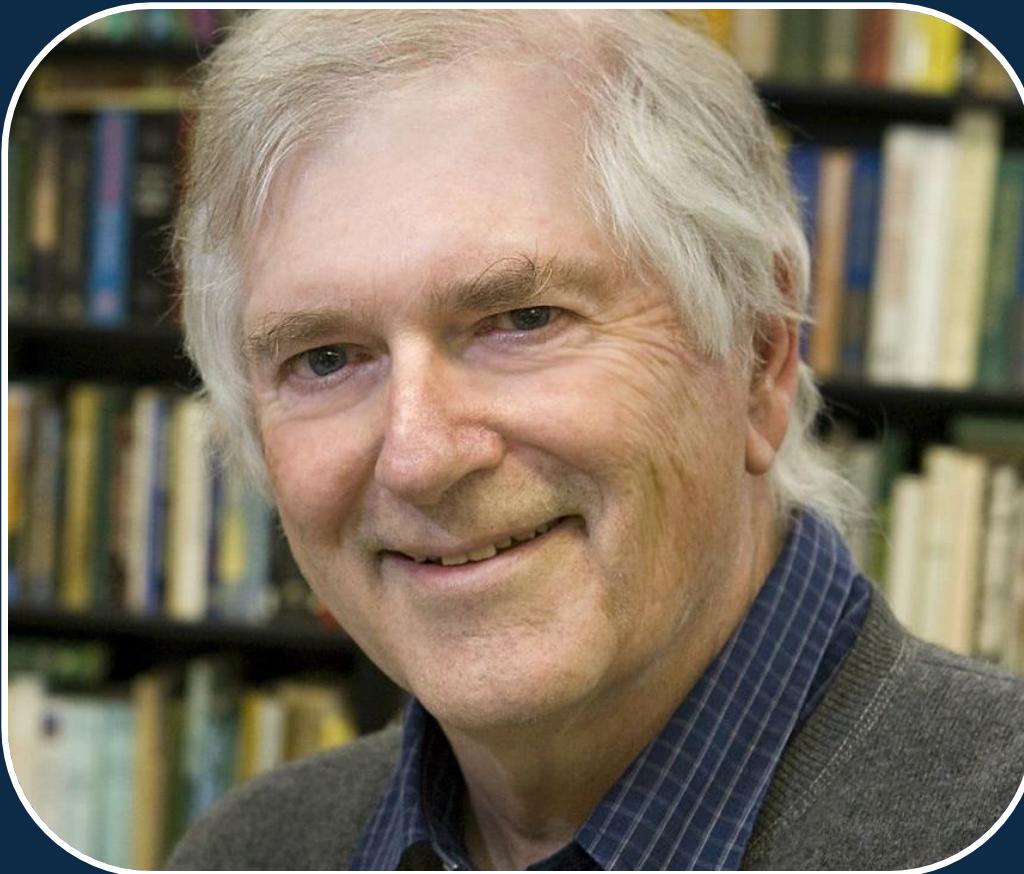
Parravicini et al. 2015

# Do ecological differences matter?



# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

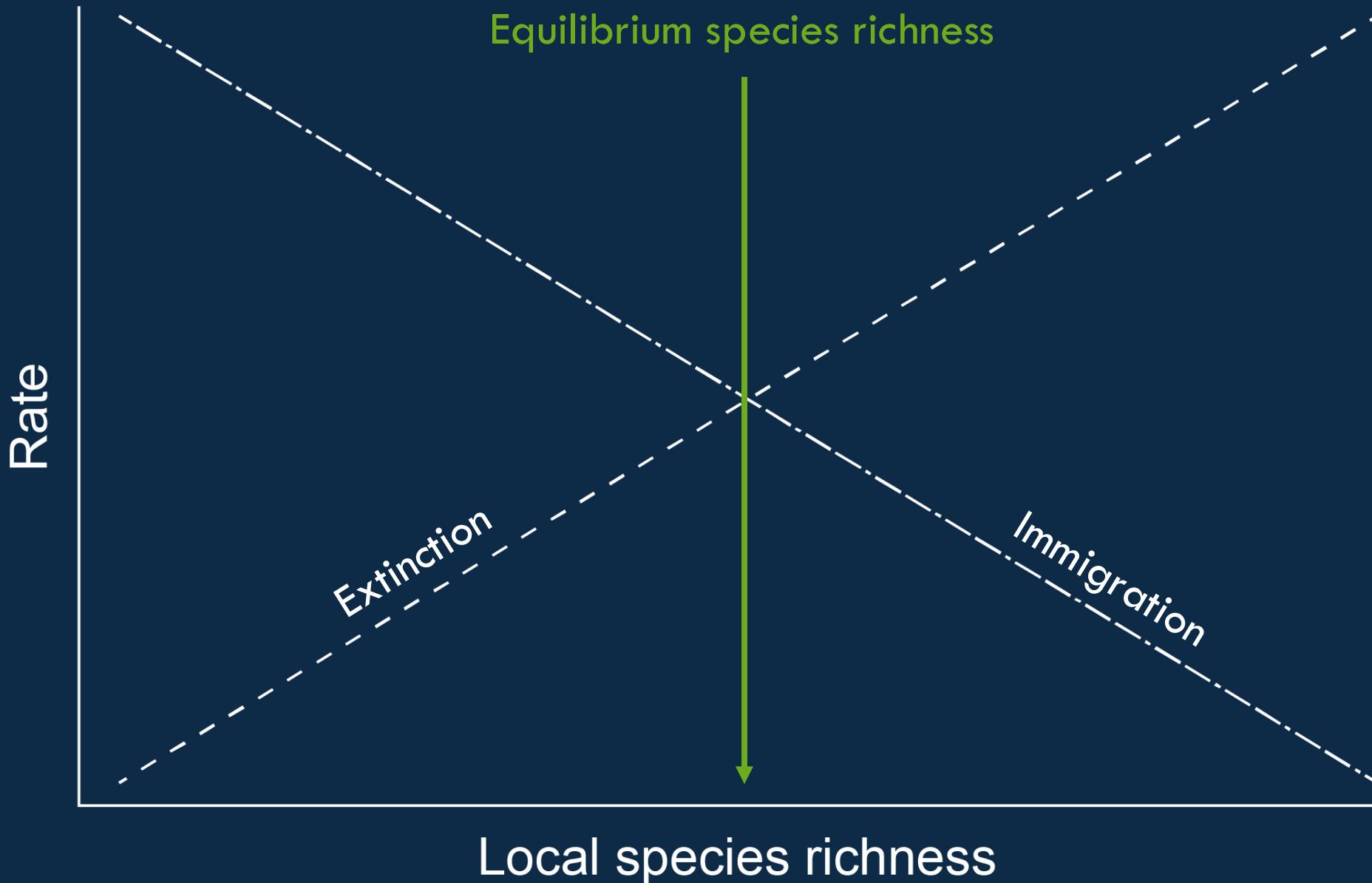
Steve Hubbell



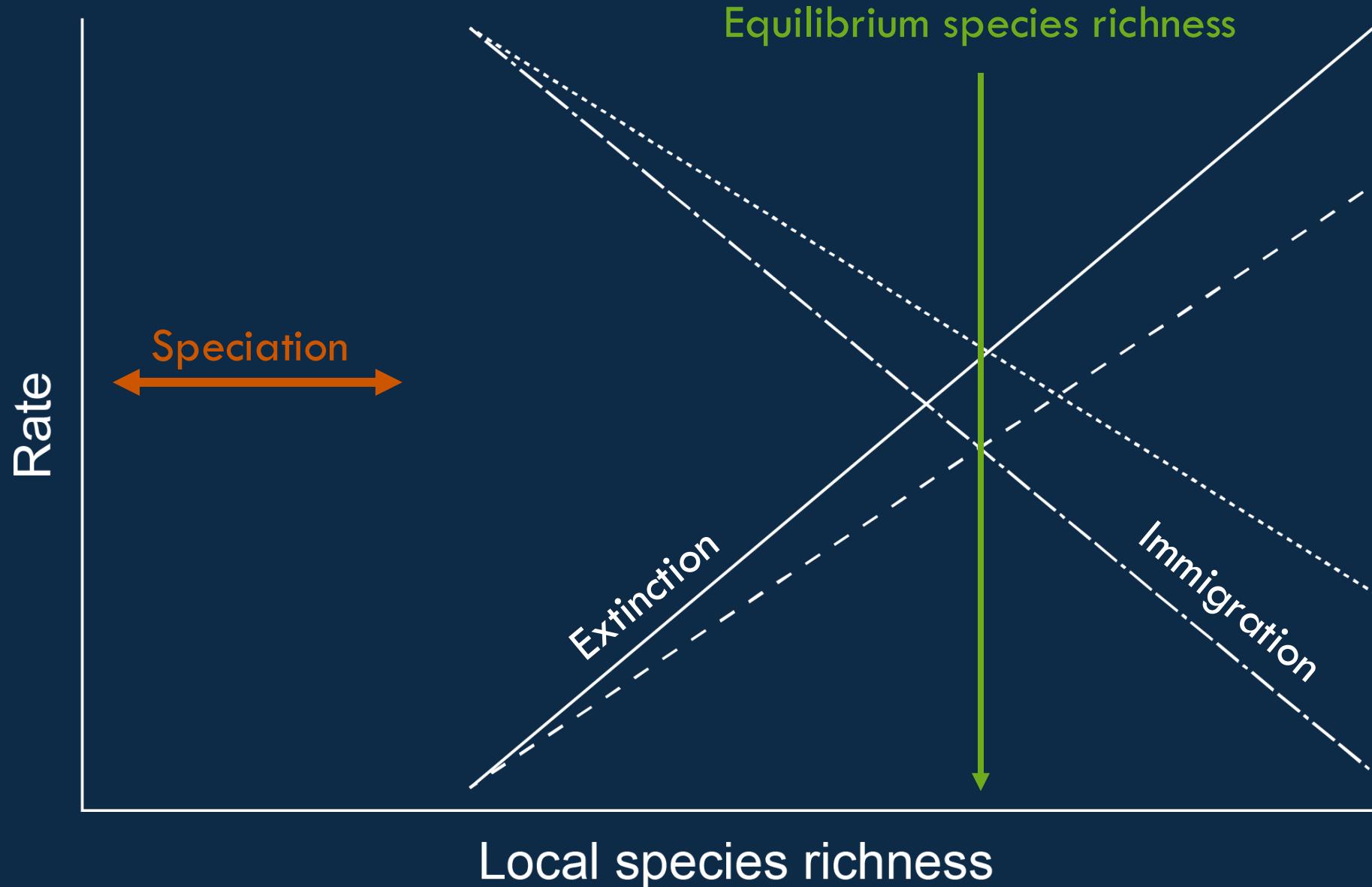
Neutral theory of biodiversity

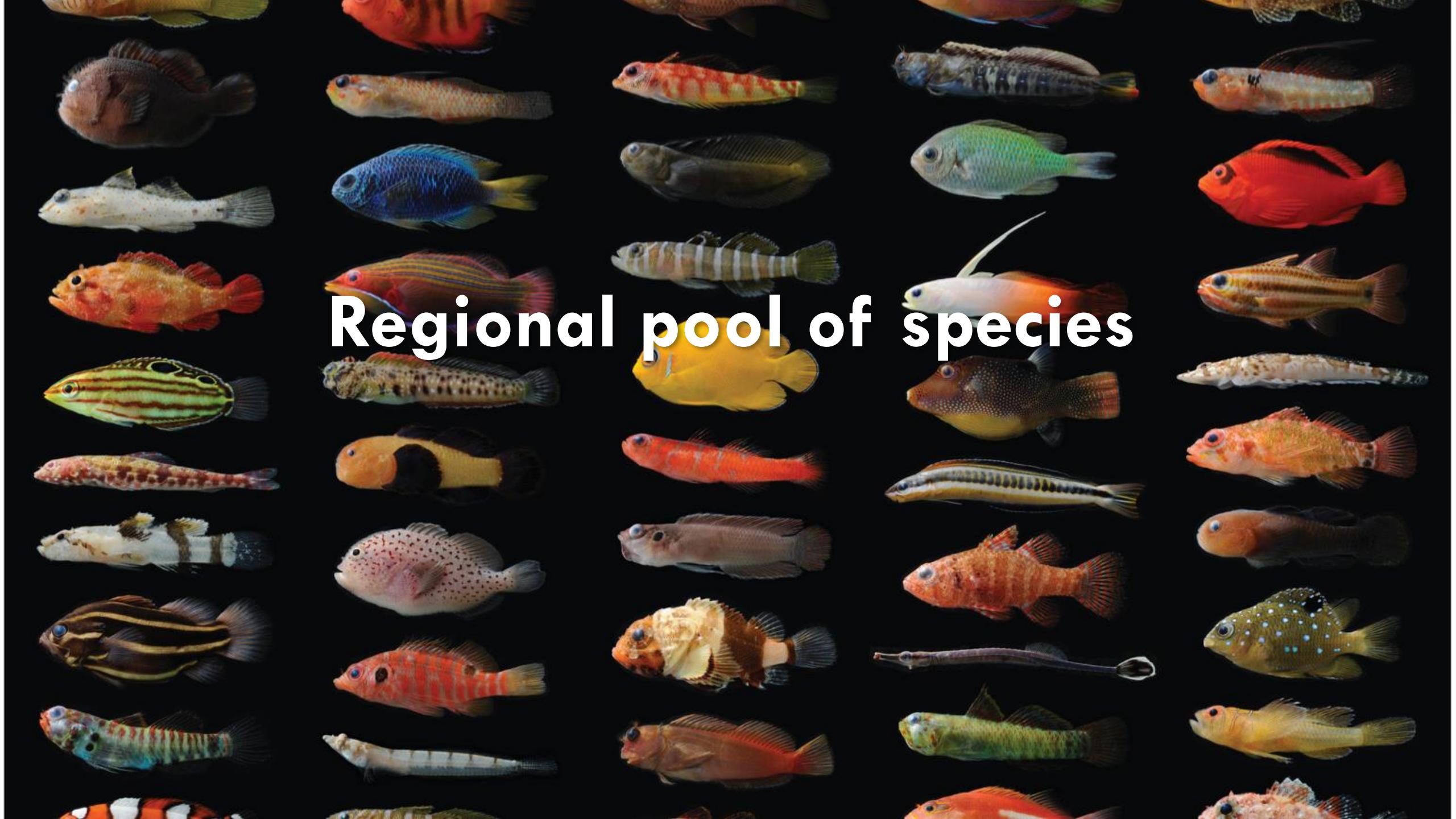


# Large Scale Patterns & Processes



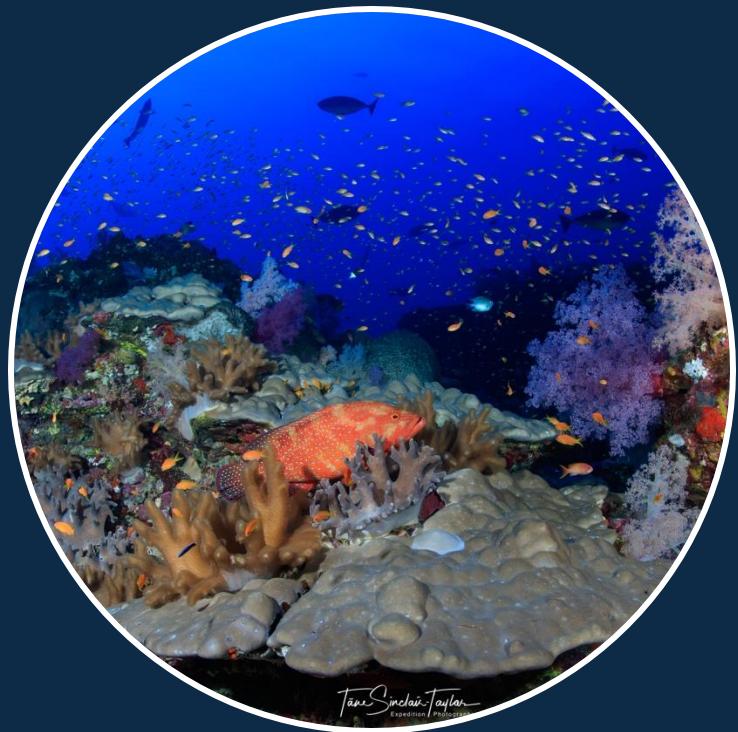
# Large Scale Patterns & Processes





Regional pool of species

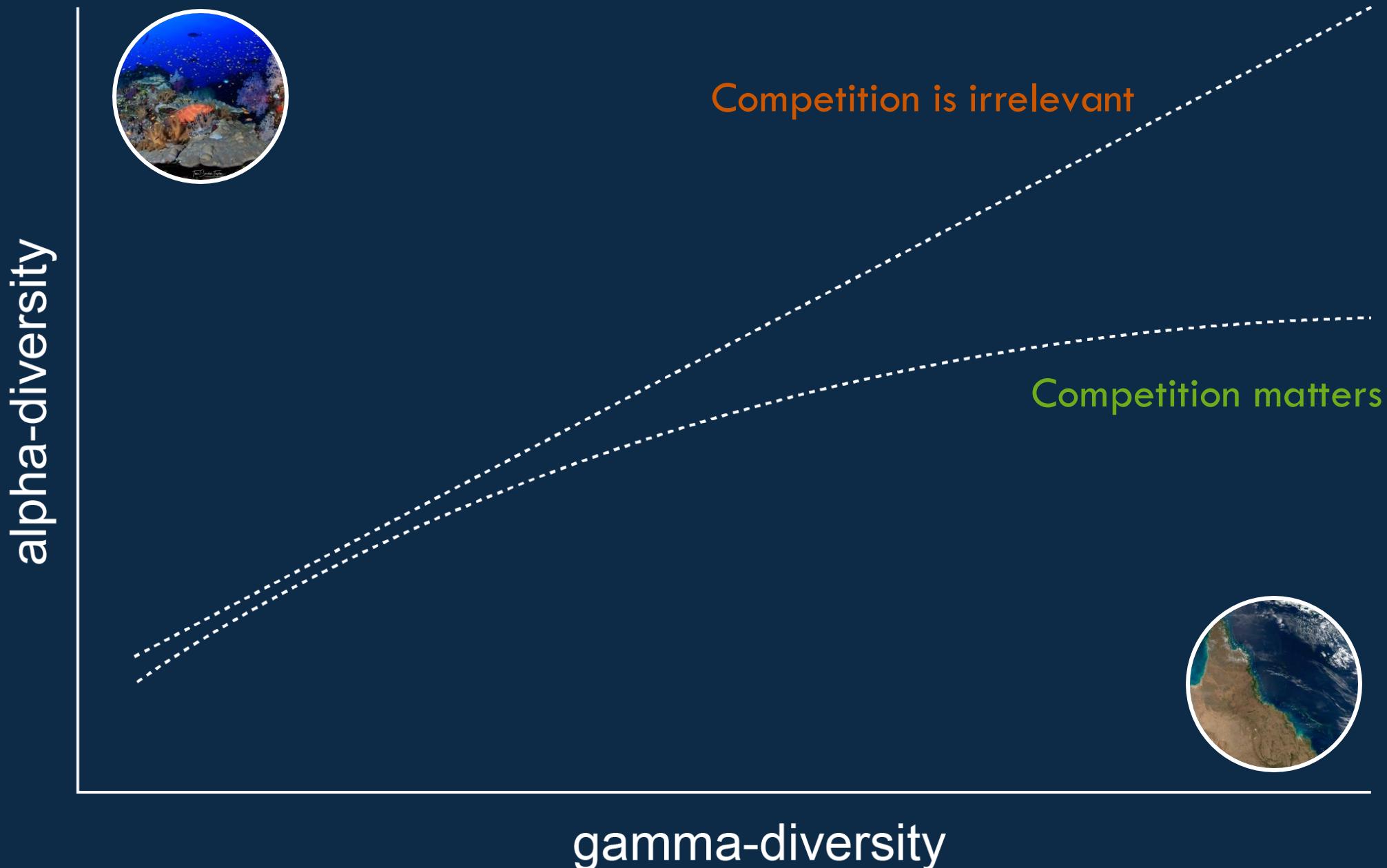
Local



Regional

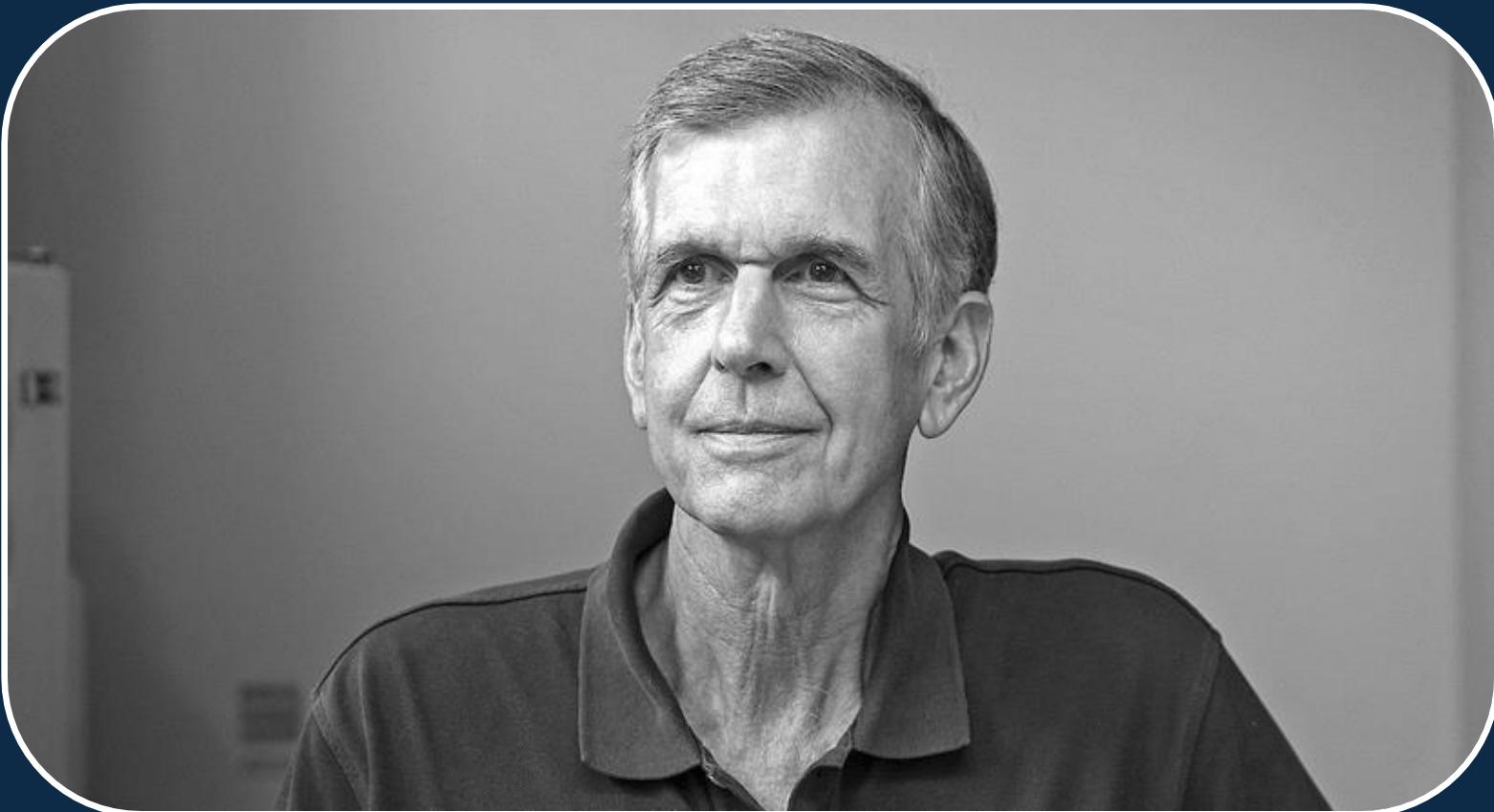


# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

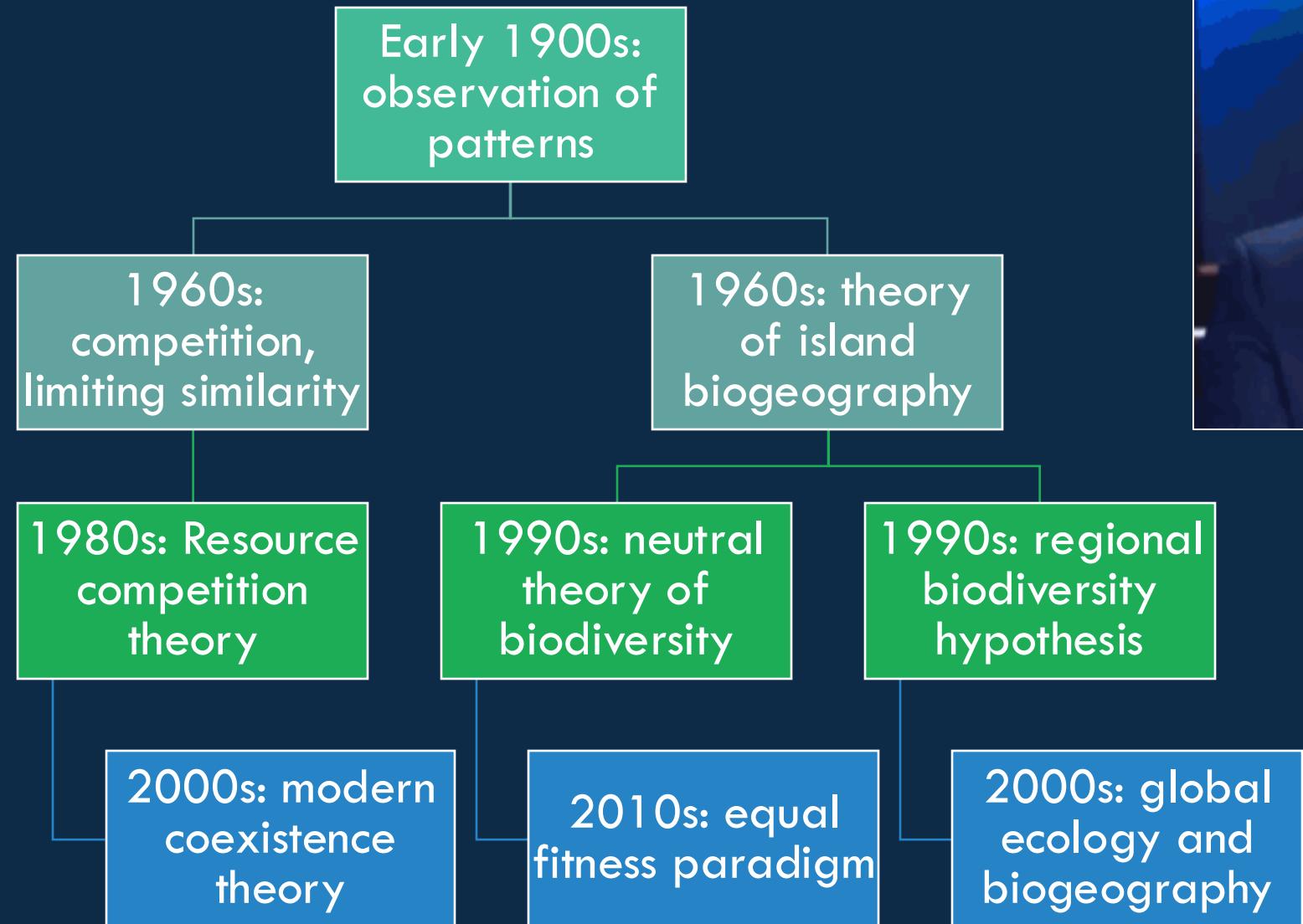


# Large Scale Patterns & Processes

Robert Ricklefs



Regional biodiversity hypothesis

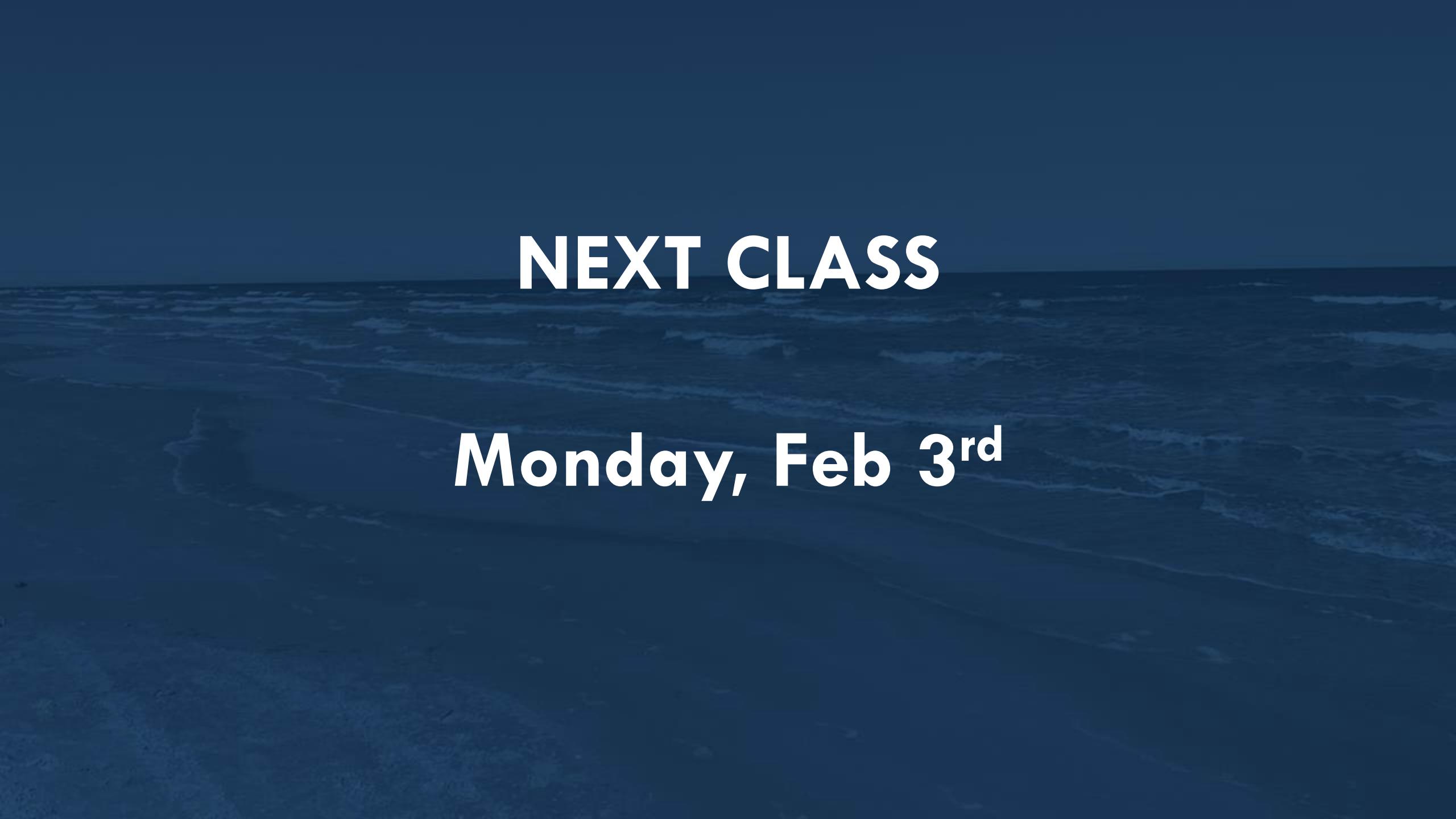




# Homework

Read Lawton (1999). *Are there general laws in ecology?* (*Oikos*) and submit a 250-word statement as to whether or not you agree with the main message of the paper and why.

Hint: it's in Canvas under "Files"



# NEXT CLASS

Monday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>

