

ECOGRAPHY

PATTERN AND DIVERSITY IN ECOLOGY



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APRIL 2015

ECOGRAPHY

ECOGRAPHY is a journal issued by the Nordic Ecological Society Oikos, representing ecologists in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Ecologists from all countries are invited to publish original results on its pages.

ECOGRAPHY publishes papers focused on broad spatial and temporal patterns, particularly studies of population and community ecology, macroecology, biogeography, and ecological conservation. Studies in ecological genetics and historical ecology are welcomed in the context of explaining contemporary ecological patterns. Manuscripts are expected to address general principles in ecology, though they may do so using a specific model system if this frames the problem relative to a generalised ecological issue.

Papers generally are expected to be based on concise hypotheses or to relate to concise theoretical concepts based on sound natural history. Purely descriptive papers are considered only if breaking new ground and/or describing patterns seldom explored. Manuscripts merely confirming or marginally extending results of previous work are discouraged. Papers are judged by virtue of their originality, appeal to general interest, and their contribution to new developments in ecological research concerning spatial and temporal patterns. There is no bias with regard to taxon, biome, or biogeographical area.

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- **Review & Synthesis papers** provide a critical assessment of the literature with emphasis on current topics in which rapid and significant advances are occurring. *Ecography* papers in this category should be more focused than the broad, topical reviews typically published elsewhere, developing a synthesis that inspires new hypotheses or new methods. Contributions in this category may be submitted or solicited.
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Cover:

Top image: `pdbdb_map_occur` function, from the paleobioDB R Package, returns a map of the number of fossil records per cell stored in the Paleobiology Database. In this case, the image shows the records assigned to Canidae.
Middle left image: Common blackbird (*Turdus merula*) on holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Photo by Luis Ojembarrena.
Center image: Description: *Bia actorion* (Nymphalidae, Brassolini) in Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest understory. Photo by Phil DeVries.
Middle right image: The Italian festoon in the image (*Zerynthia cassandra*) is extremely similar in morphology to the southern festoon (*Zerynthia polyxena*). This is a recently described cryptic species of butterfly that occurs on the Italian peninsula and on two islands (Sicily and Elba). The forum paper by Vodá et al. in this issue highlights the importance of including the cryptic diversity in ecological, biodiversity and biogeographic studies to avoid biased results. Photo by Roger Vila.
Bottom image: Blooming alpine meadow (2550 m a.s.l.) in the southwestern Alps near Lautaret pass (France). Photo by Philippe Choler.