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**Does seed predation offset  
seed dispersal for an invasive  
cactus in East Africa?**

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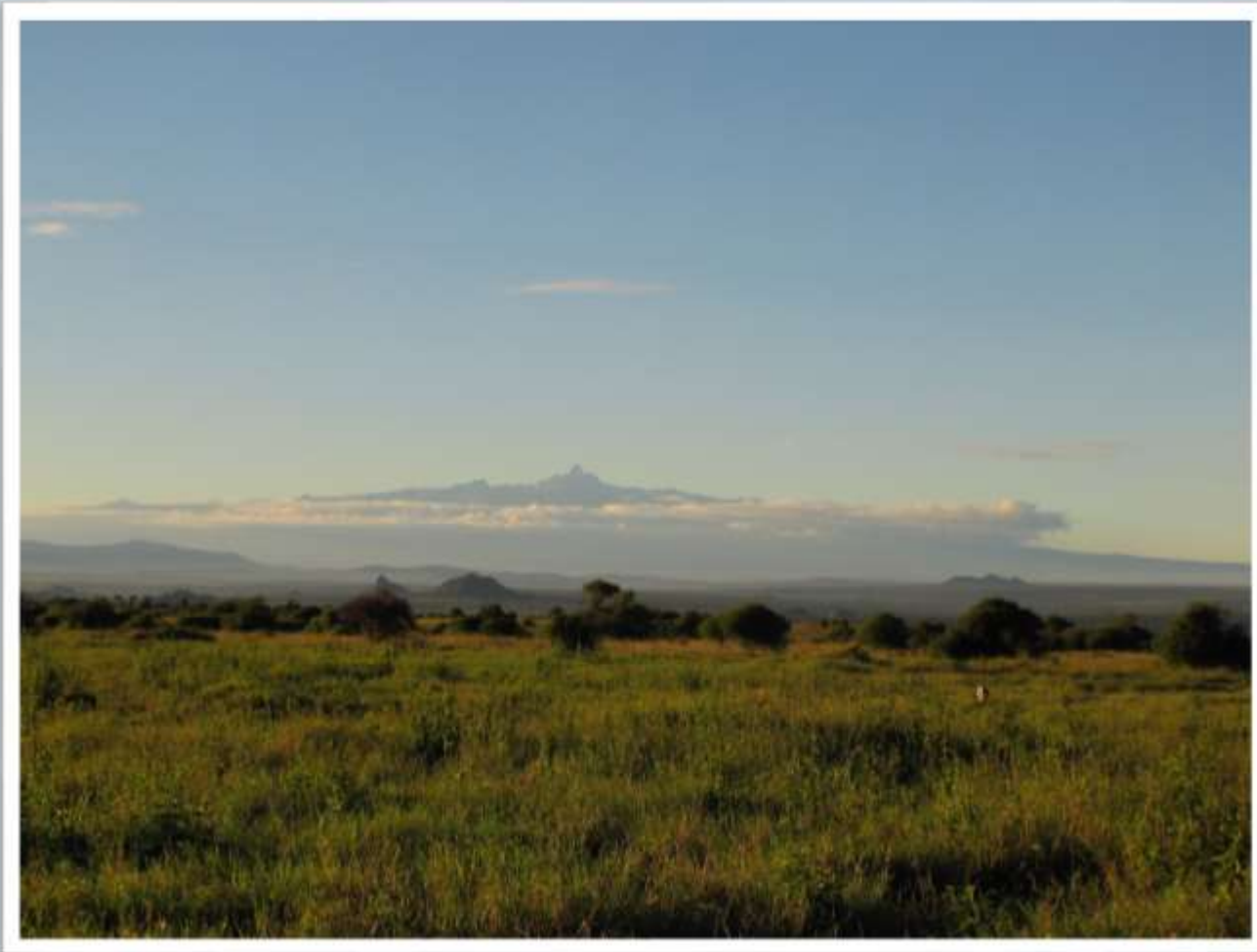
# Study Site: Laikipia, Kenya



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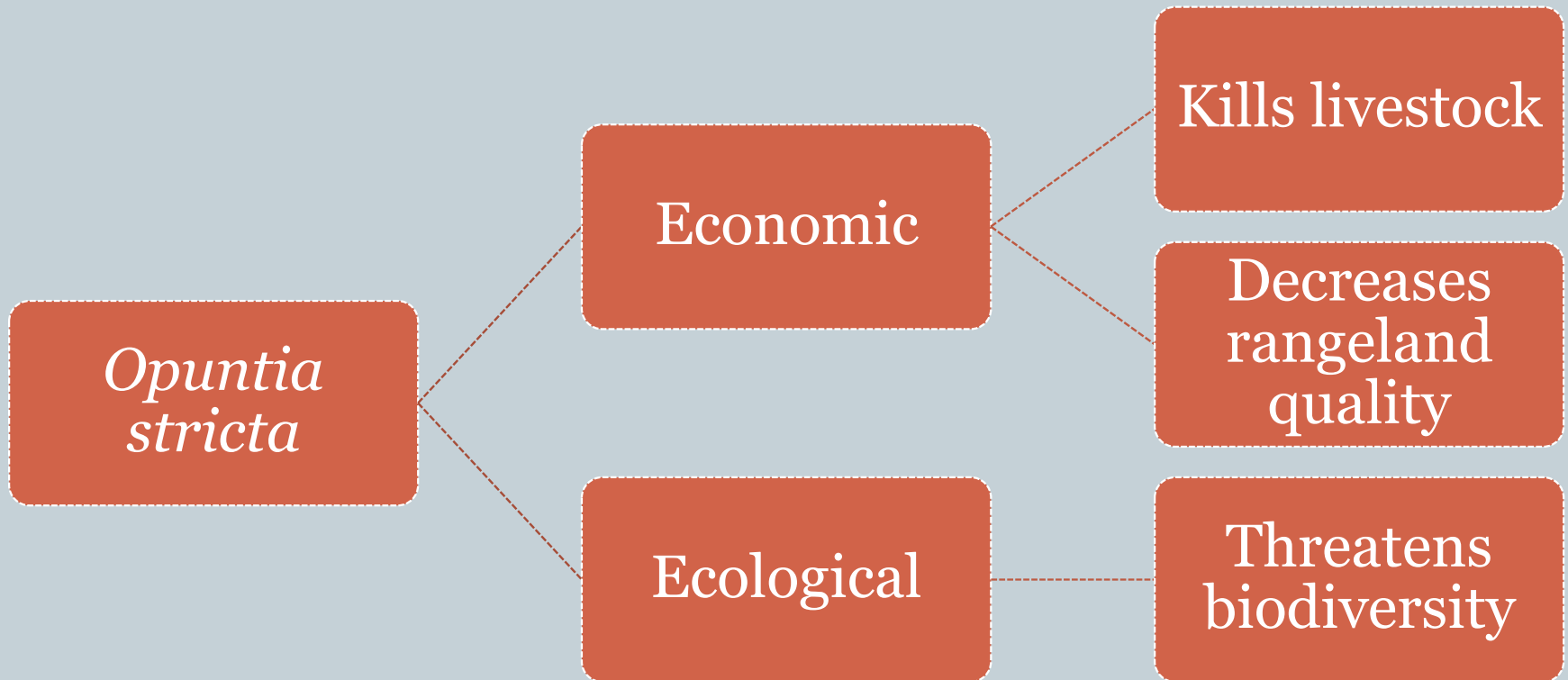
# Study Site: Laikipia, Kenya



# The players: *Opuntia stricta*



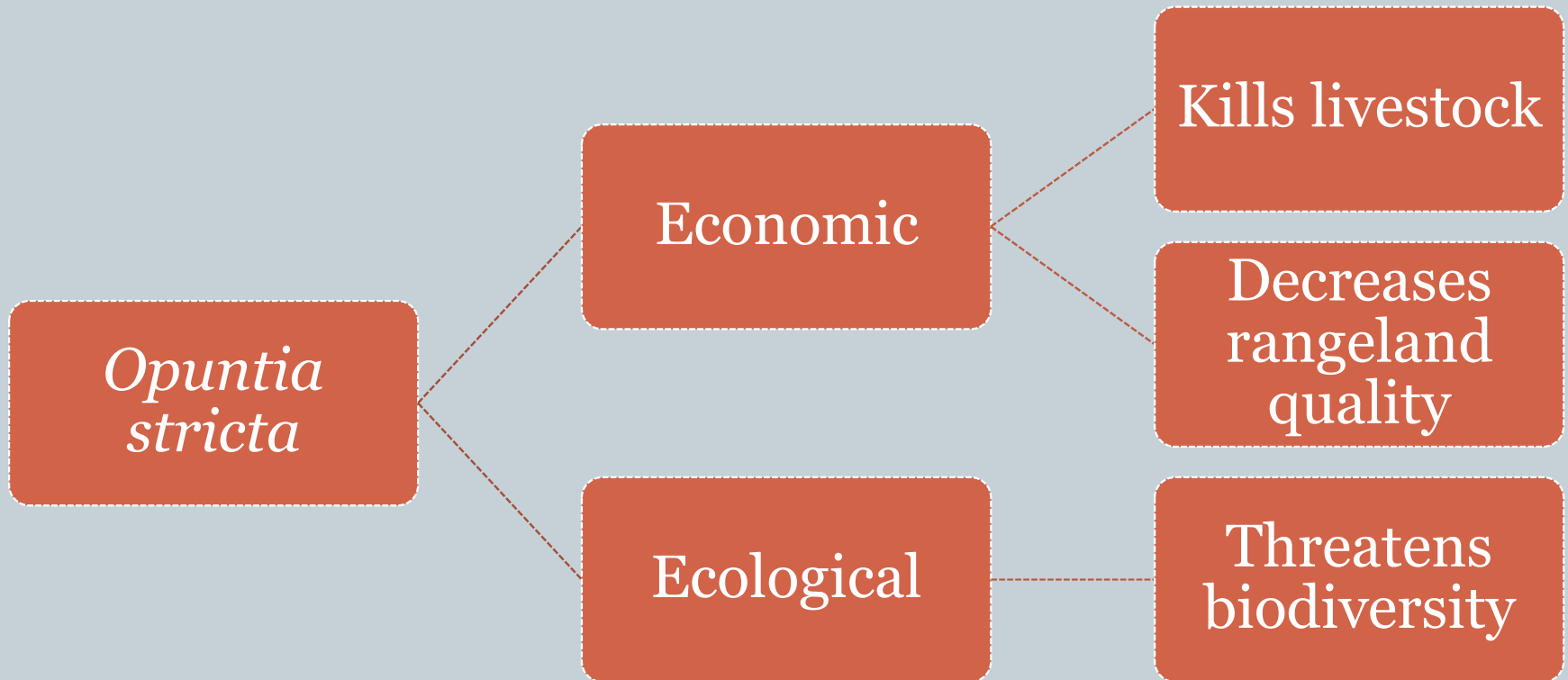
# Implications: Economic and Ecological



# Livestock and *Opuntia*



# Implications: Economic and Ecological





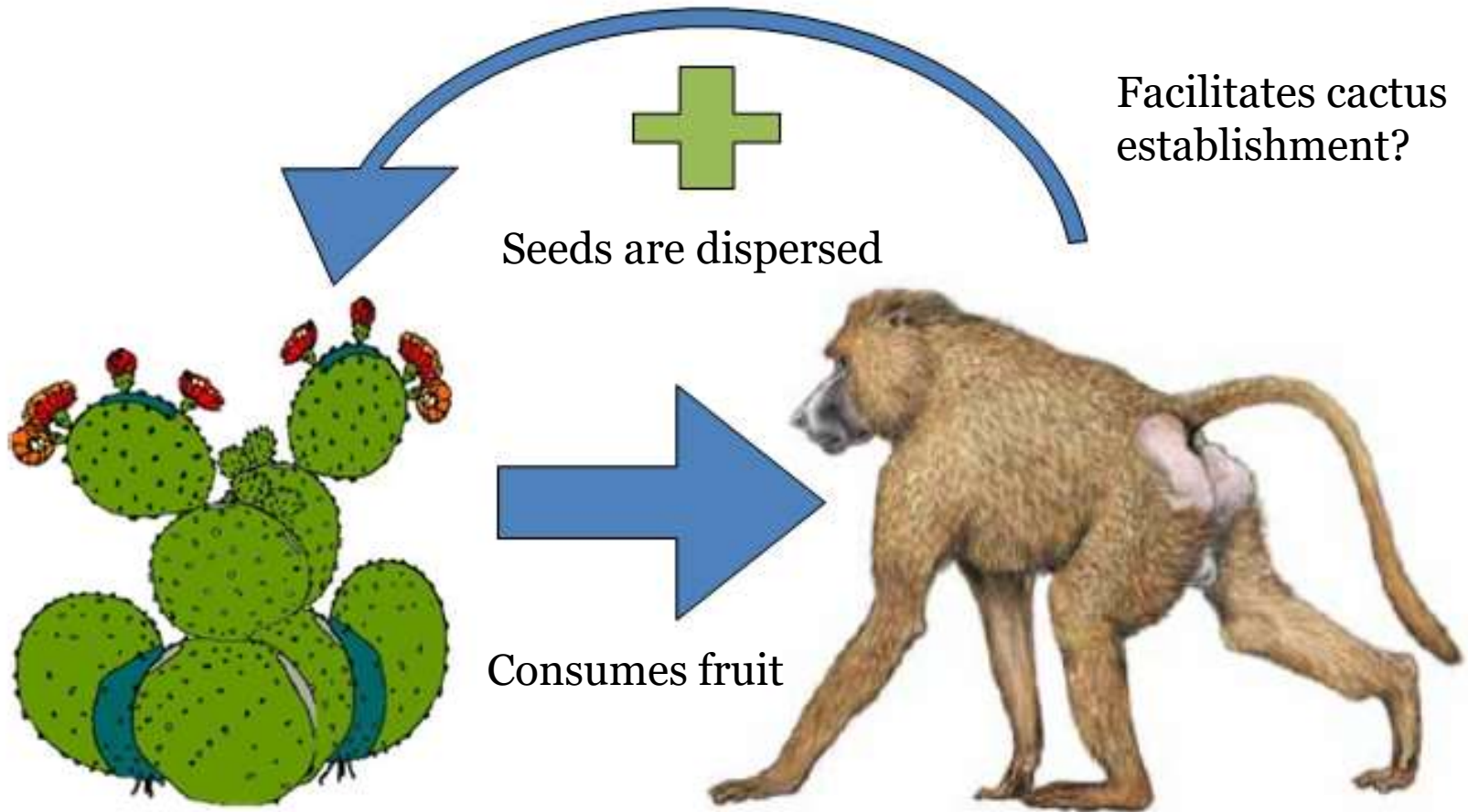
# The players: *Papio anubis*



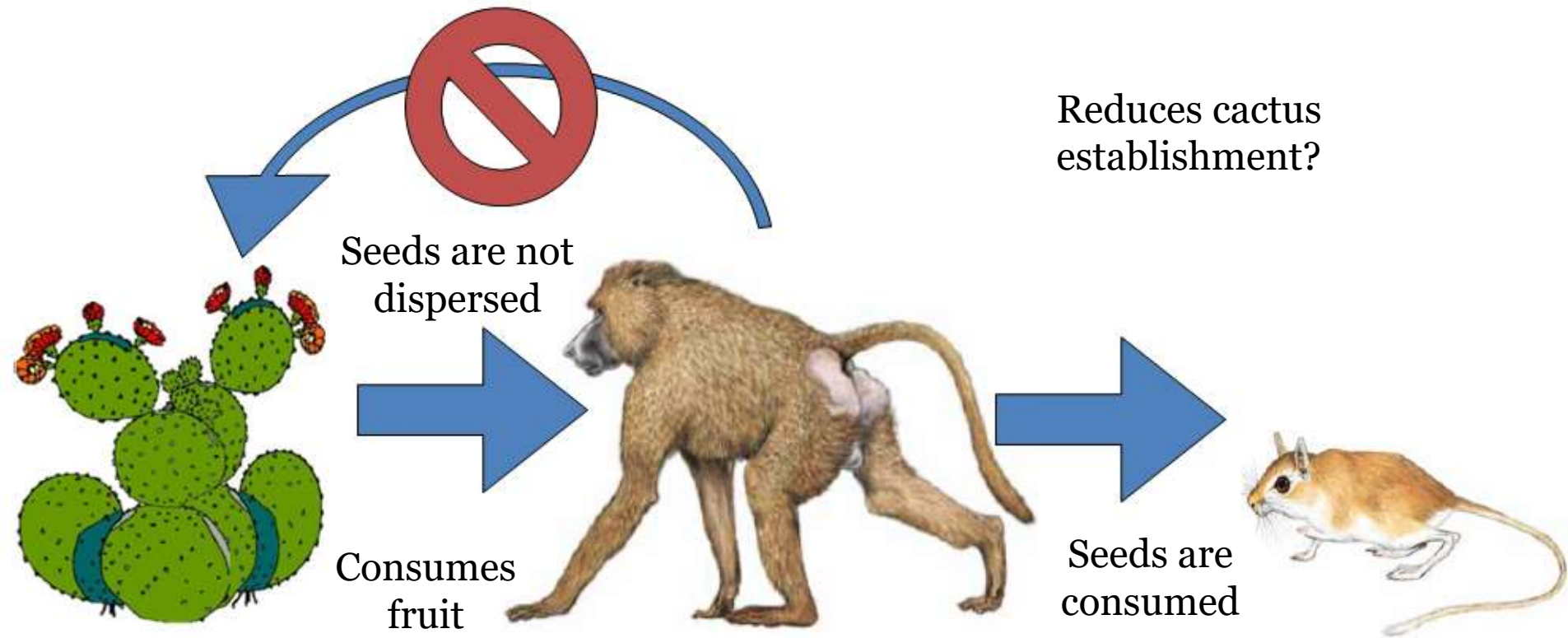
# The players: *Gerbilliscus robustus*



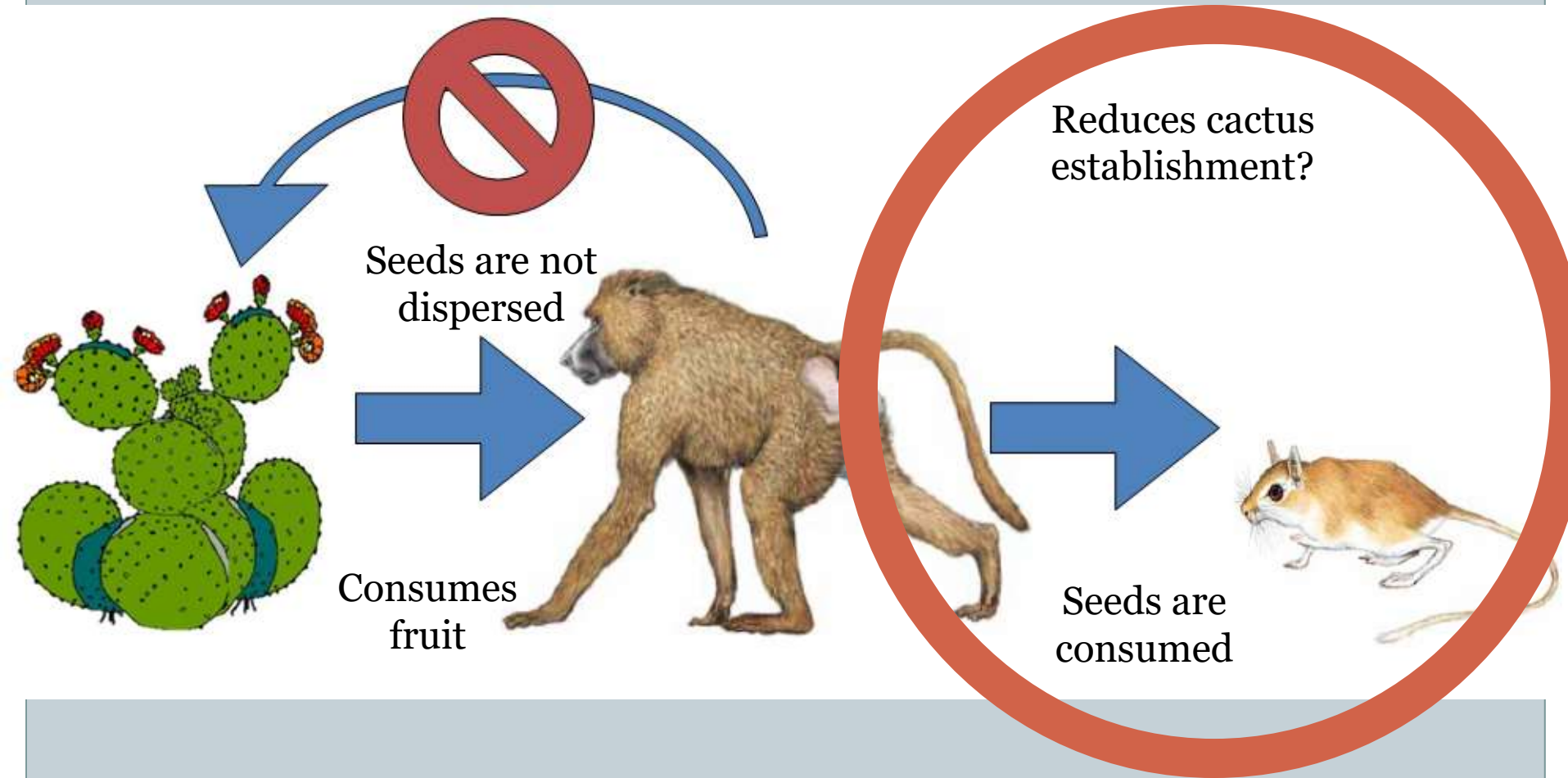
# Hypothesis One: Seed Dispersal



# Hypothesis Two: Seed Predation



# Hypothesis Two: Seed Predation



# Testing Seed Predation Hypothesis



- Rodents consume seeds
- Rodents select seeds from baboon feces

# Methods



Feces and  
seeds

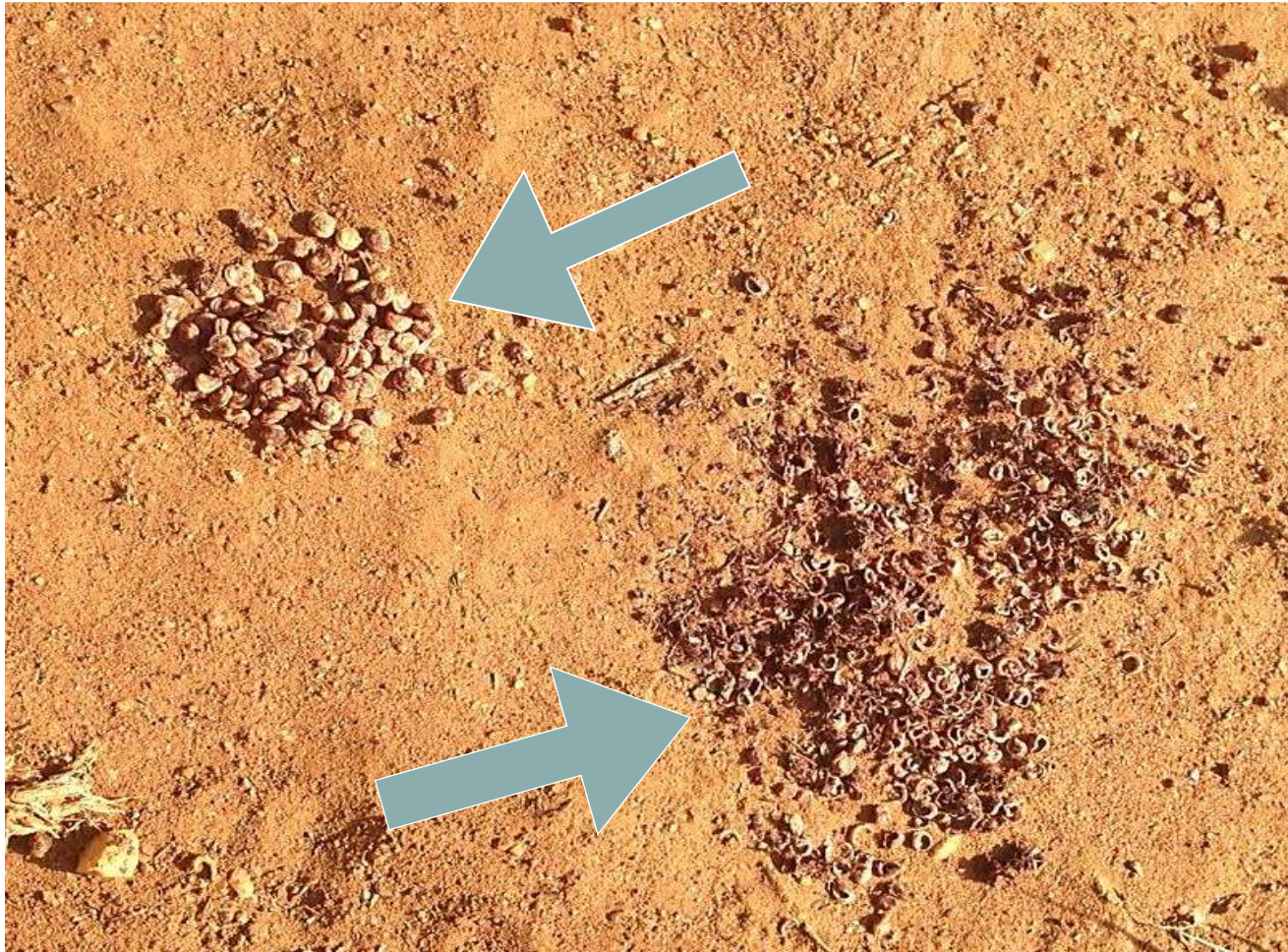


Seeds only

- Camera traps

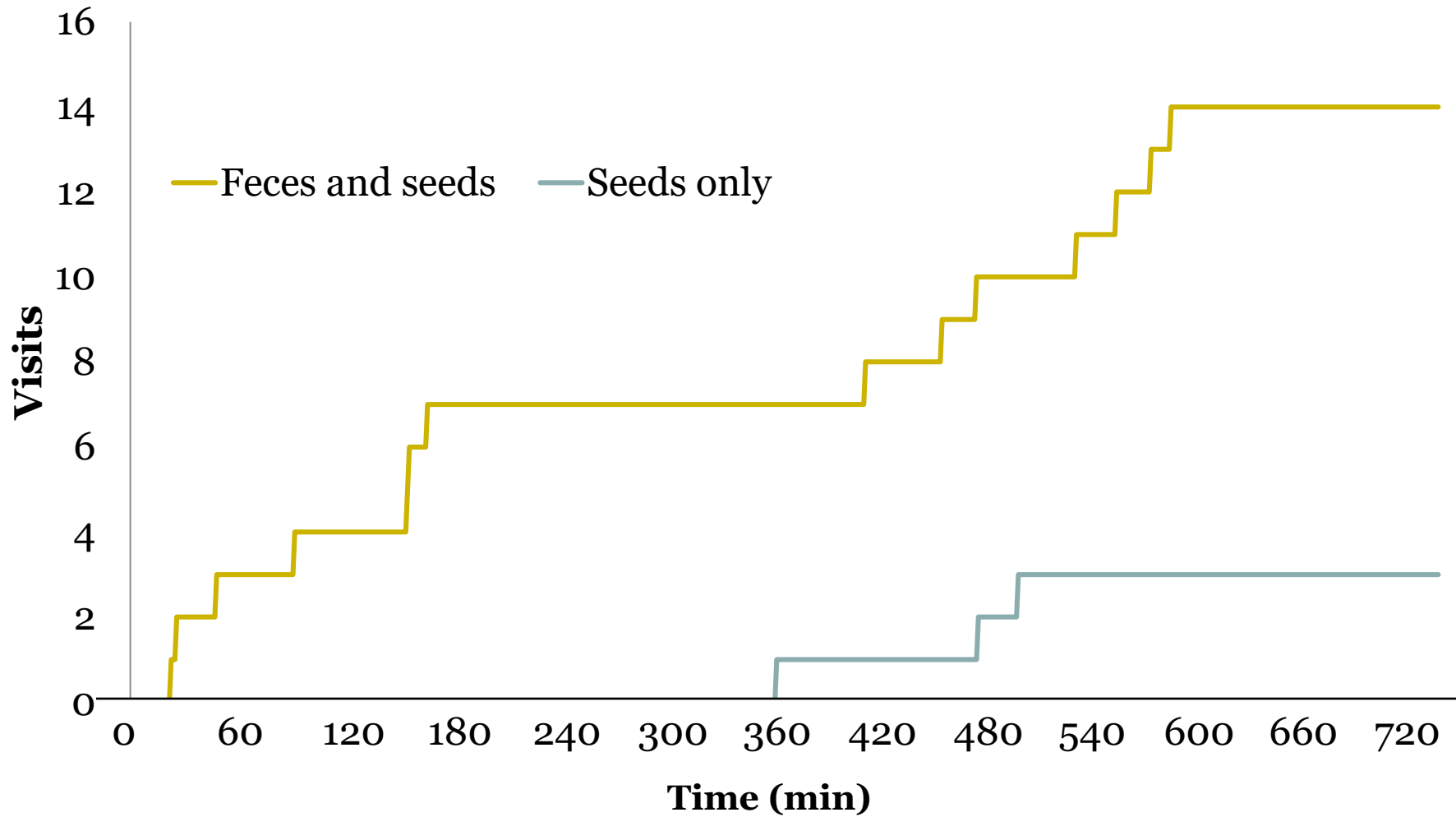


# Methods



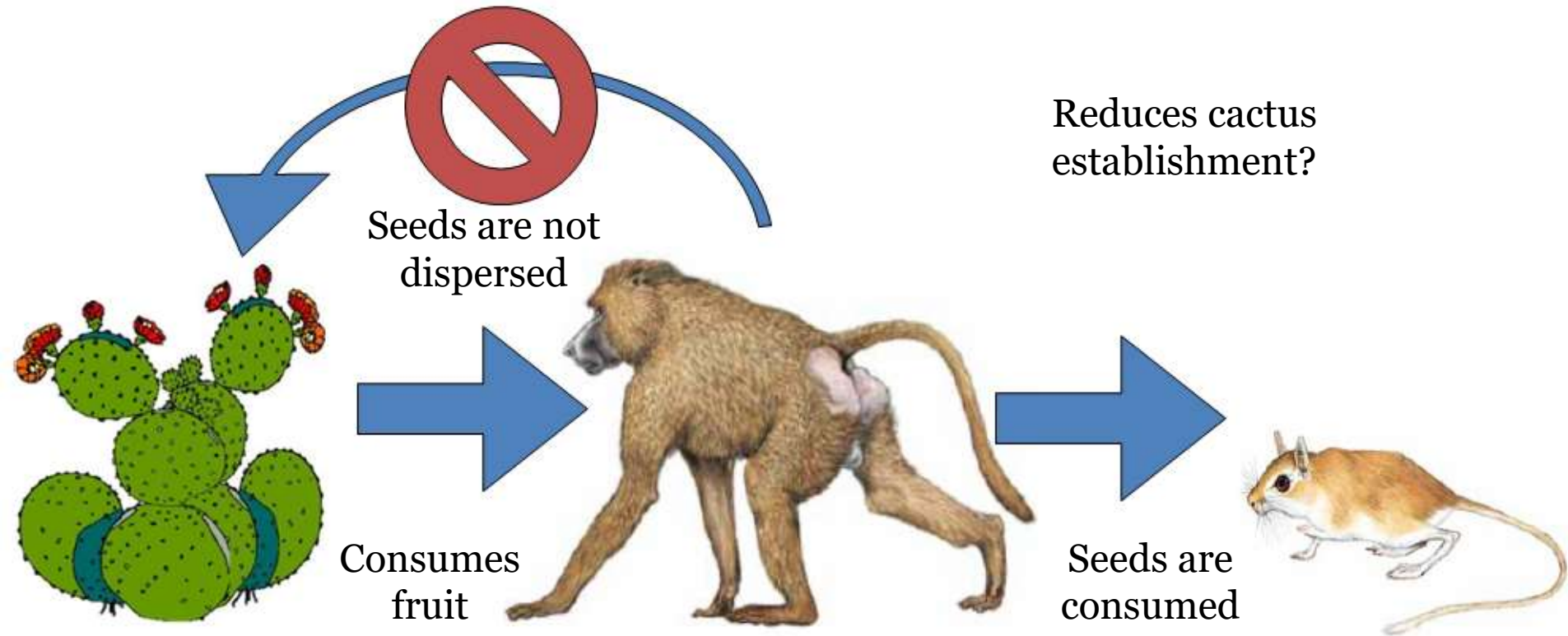


# Results

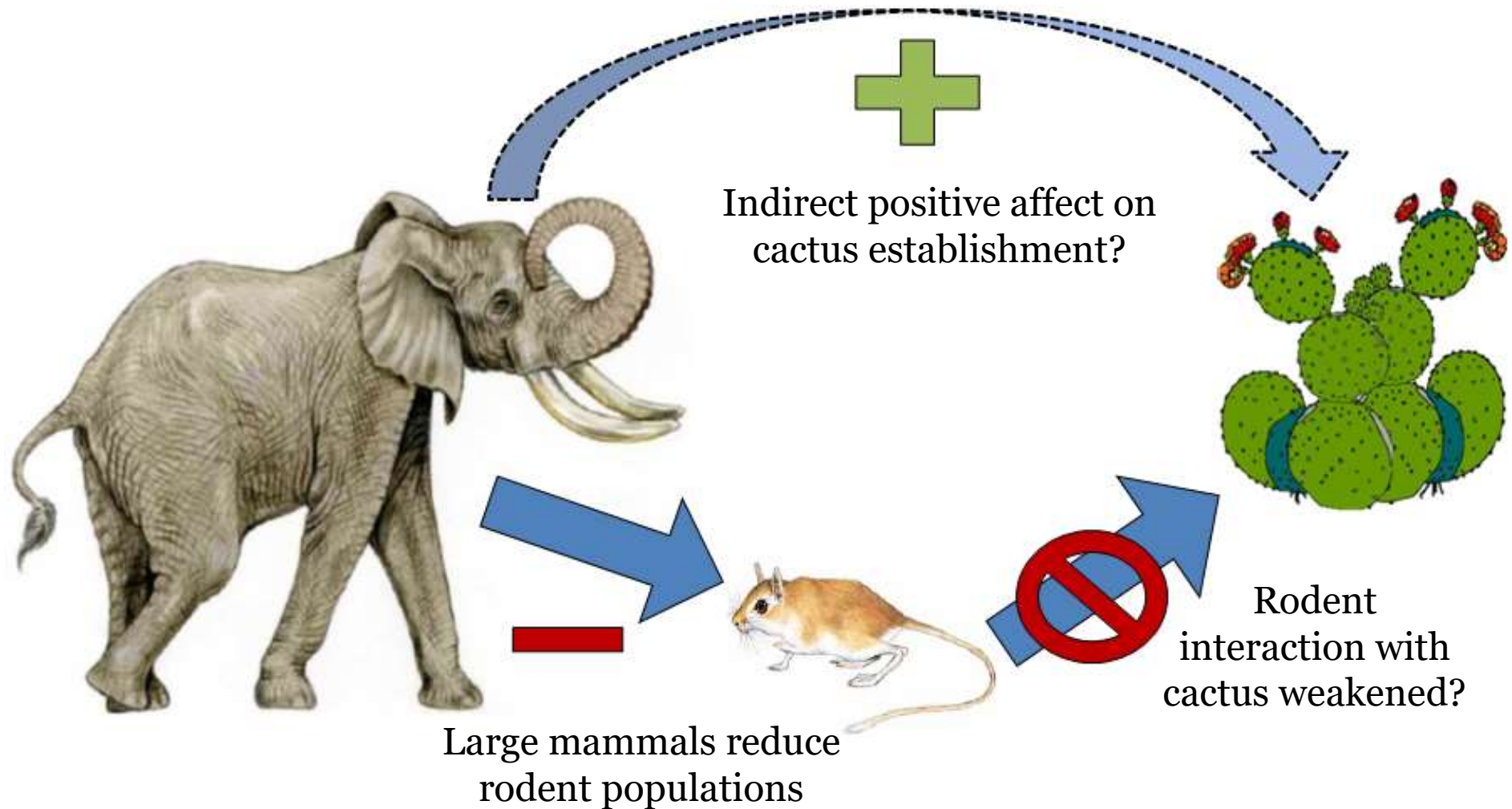


# Conclusion

- Without seed predation by gerbils, would the spread and abundance of *Opuntia* be even higher?



# Do large mammals reduce numbers of rodents—and seed predation—thereby increasing cactus?



# Career Goals



- Experience
- Publication
- American Society of Mammalogists Conference
- Graduate school

# Acknowledgements



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- University of Wyoming Honors Department

# Questions?

