



Butterfly and plant
responses to climate
change
in montane meadows
of Grand Teton
National Park

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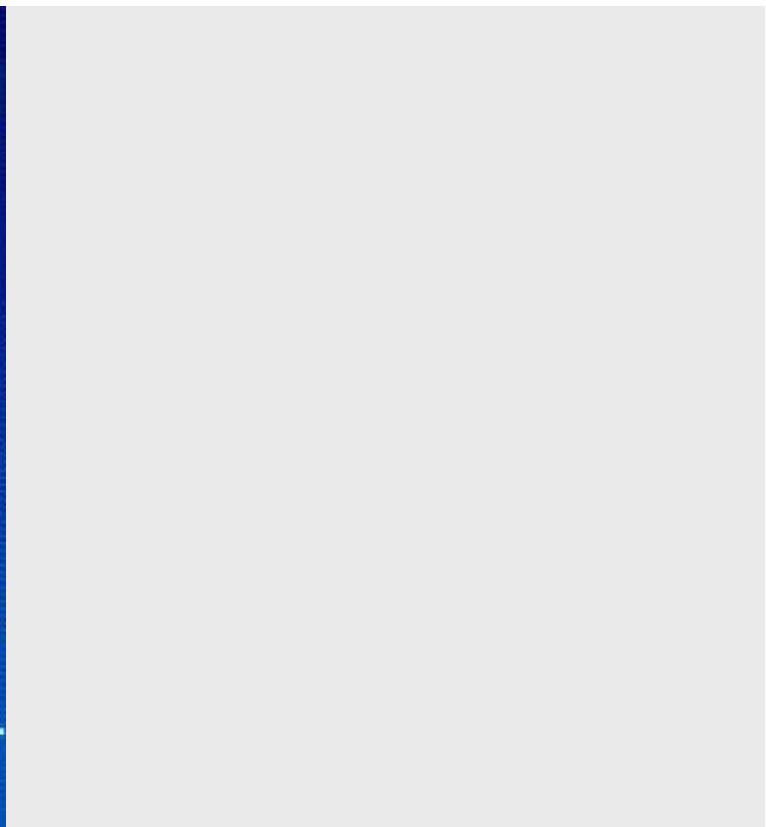
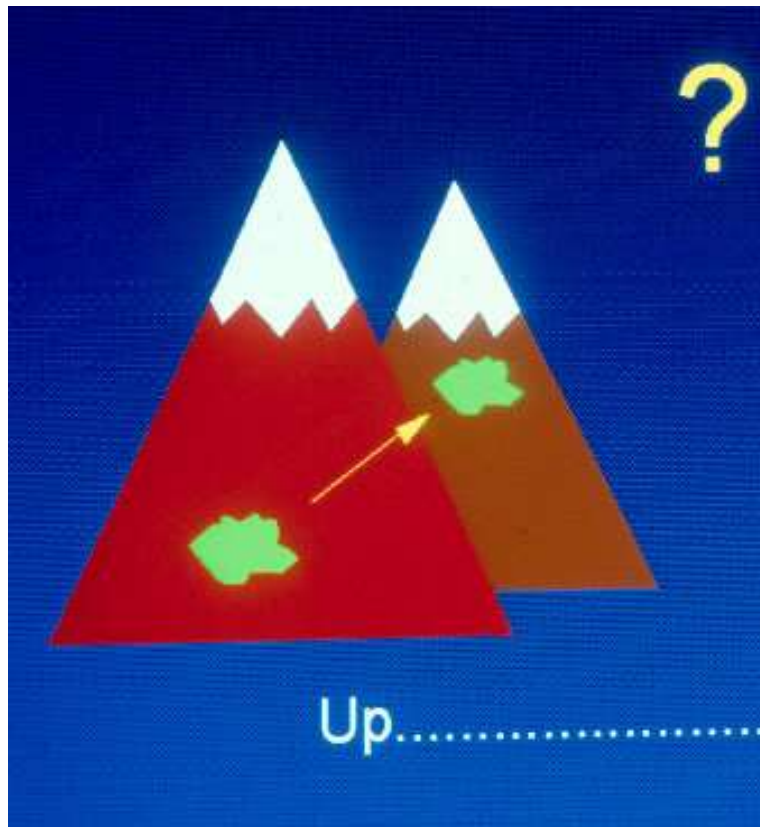


The complexity of climate responses

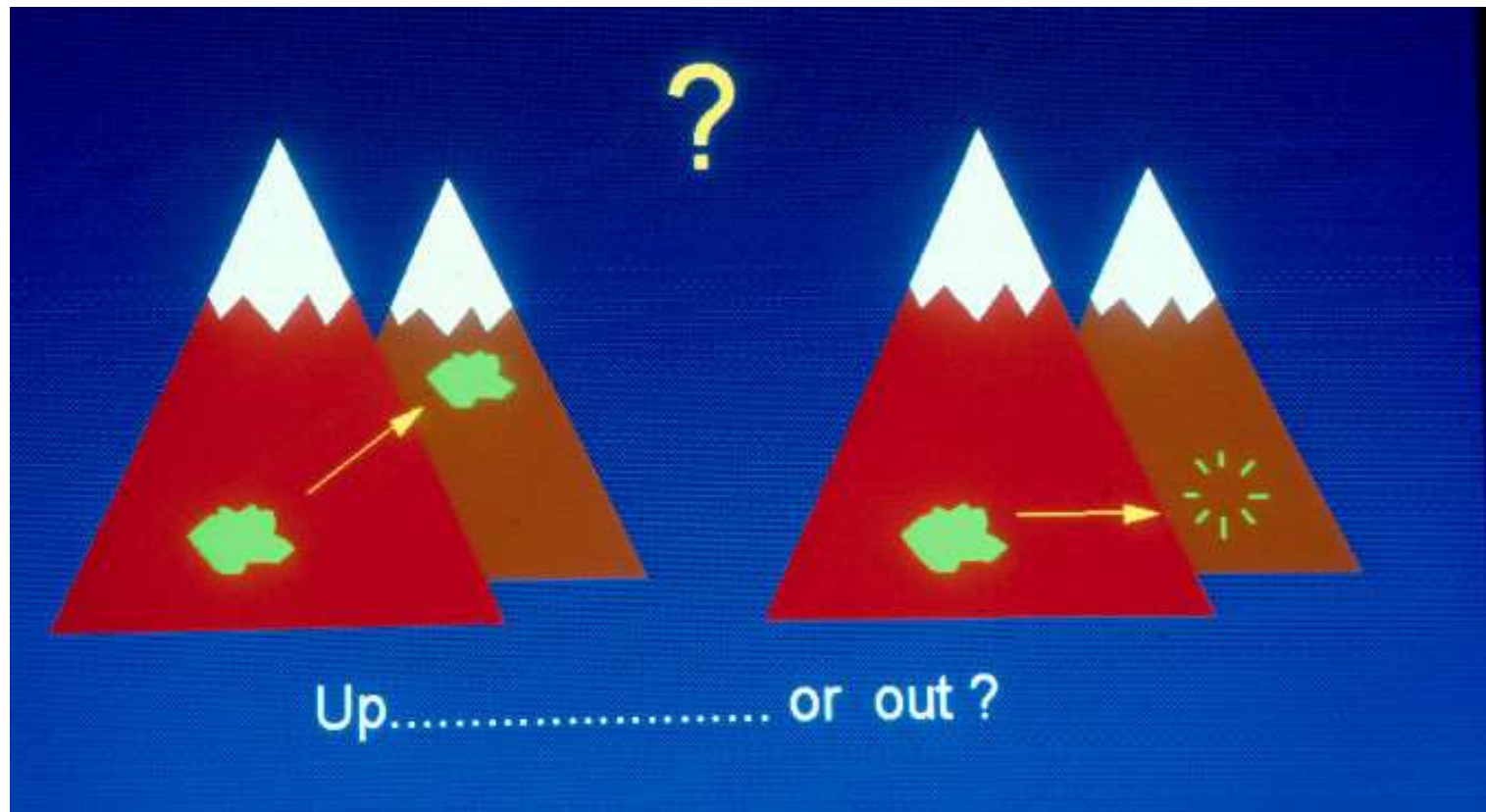


Diagram courtesy of Jay Fitzsimmons

Climate Change Change Responses in Mountain Systems



Climate Change Change Responses in Mountain Systems





Parnassius Butterflies as an Indicator Group

➤ *Parnassius apollo*

(European species)

- Renowned Eurasian montane butterfly
- Red Book listing; decreasing in 12/28 countries, extinct in 3



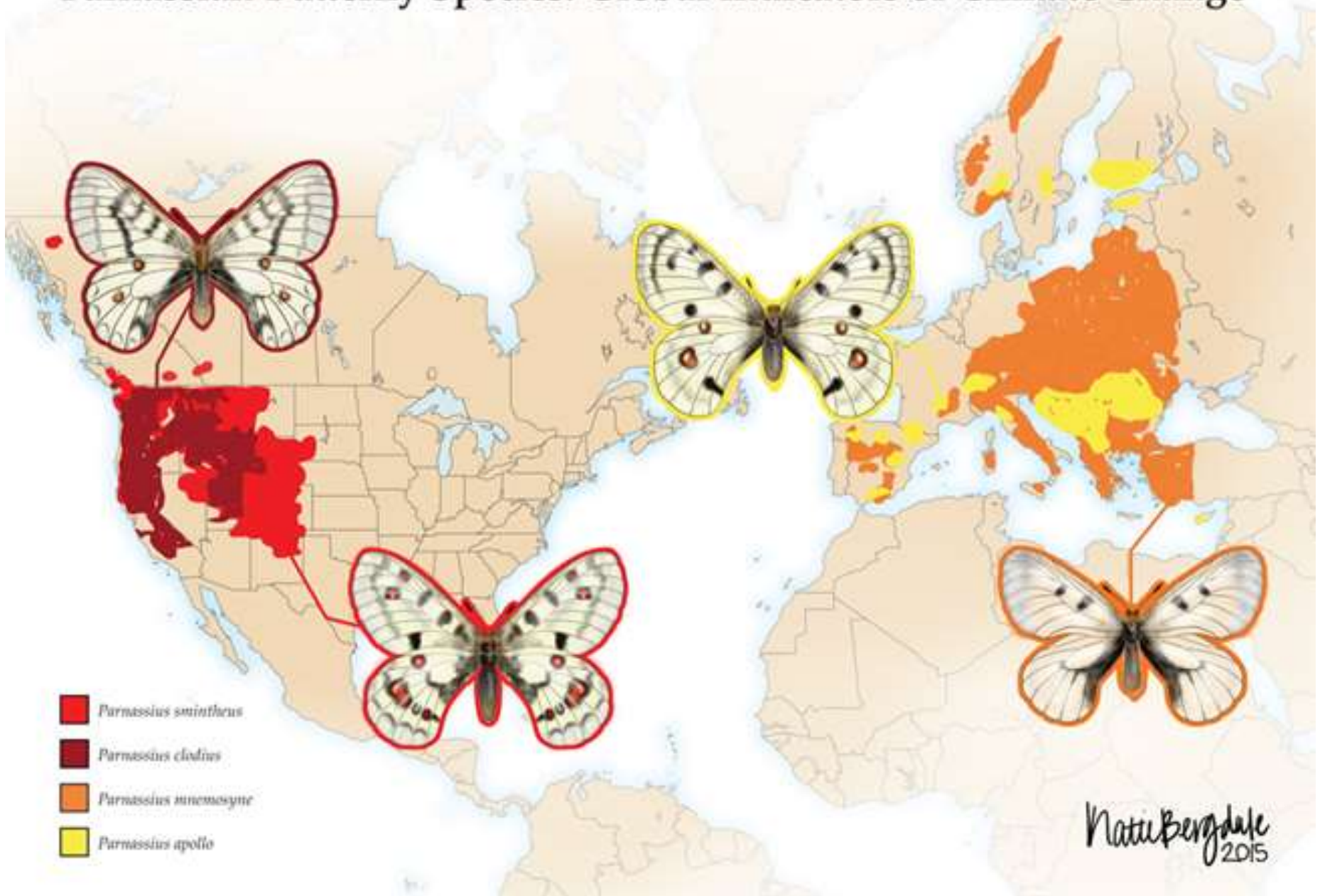
➤ *Parnassius clodius* and *smintheus*

(N. American species)

- Well-studied species in U.S. and Canada
- Caterpillars emerge at time of snowmelt
- Experiencing tree encroachment into alpine meadows in Canada



Parnassian Butterfly Species: Global Indicators of Climate Change



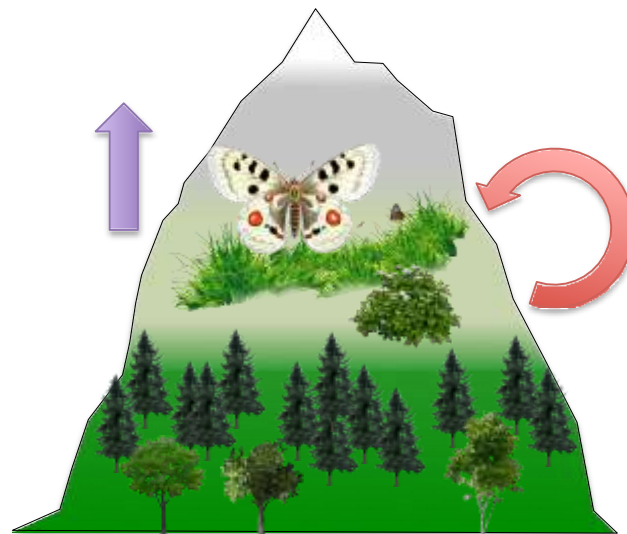
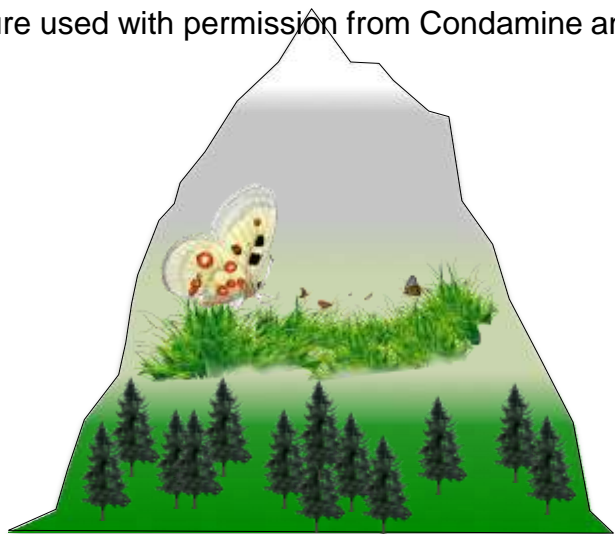
Natti Bergdale
2015

Few years ago

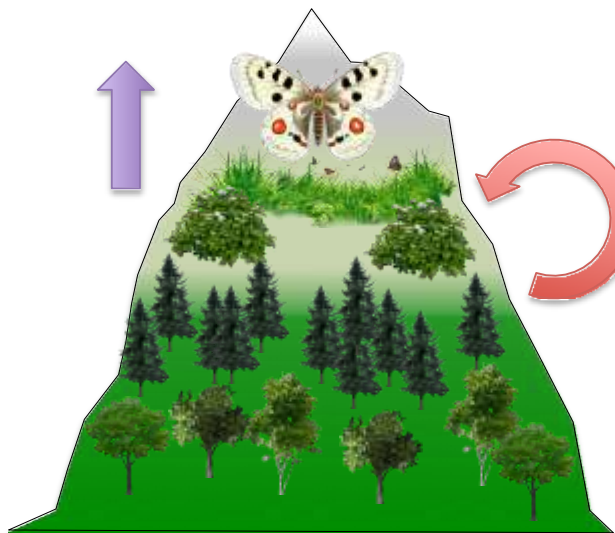
Figure used with permission from Condamine and Sperling 2018

Today

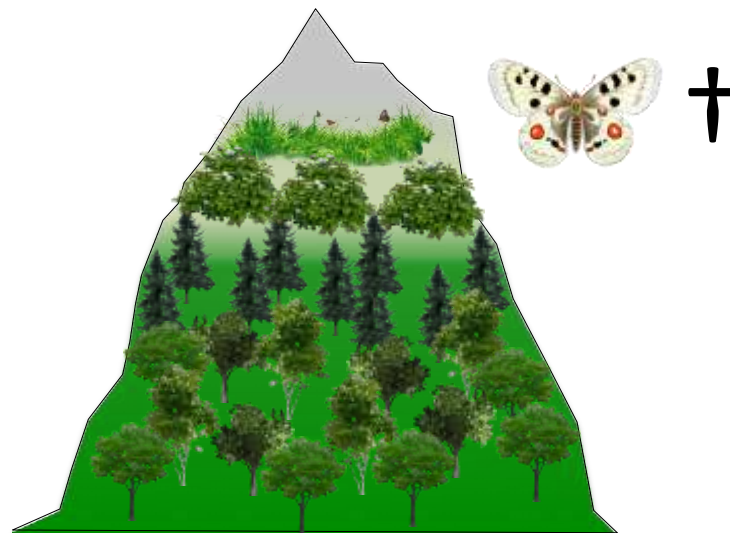
Climate gradient



In the next few years



In the next few decades



Mountain summit (no plants)

Alpine pastures (herbaceous and shrub plants)

↑ Elevational shift

Alpine part (few plants)

Mountain forest (woody plants)

↻ Plant competition

Encroaching forests decouple alpine butterfly population dynamics

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Communicated by David W. Schindler, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada, June 12, 2007 (received for review March 19, 2007)

Over the past 50 years, the rising tree line along Jumpingpound Ridge in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta, Canada, has reduced the area of alpine meadows and isolated populations that reside within them. By analyzing an 11-year data set of butterfly population sizes for 17 subpopulations along the ridge, we show that forest habitat separating alpine meadows decouples the dynamics of populations of the alpine butterfly *Parnassius smintheus*. Although the distance between populations is often negatively correlated with synchrony of dynamics, here we show that distance through forest, not Euclidean distance, determines the degree of synchrony. This effect is consistent with previous results demonstrating that encroaching forest reduces dispersal among populations and reduces gene flow. Decoupling dynamics produces more smaller independent populations, each with greater

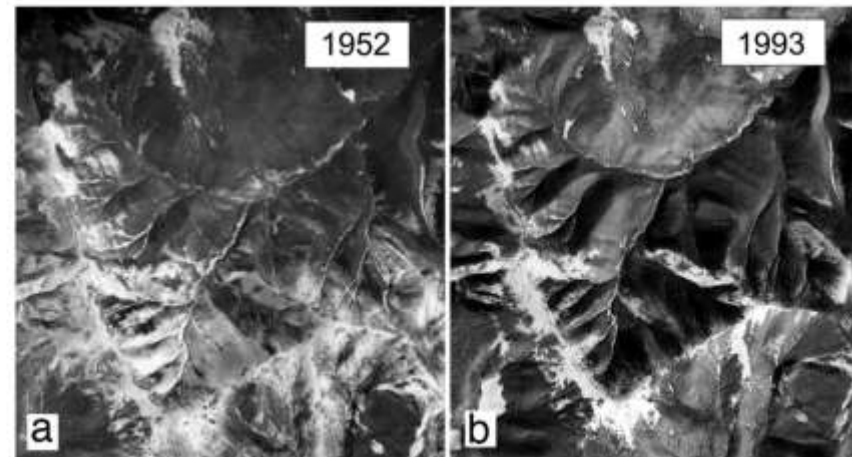




PLATE 1. Late spring snow in meadow “M” on Jumpingpound Ridge, Alberta, Canada. Photo credit: David Z. Roth.

Ecology, 94(1), 2013, pp. 190–199
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Variability in winter climate and winter extremes reduces population growth of an alpine butterfly

JENS ROLAND^{1,3} AND STEPHEN F. MATTER²

¹*Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9 Canada*

²*Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0006 USA*

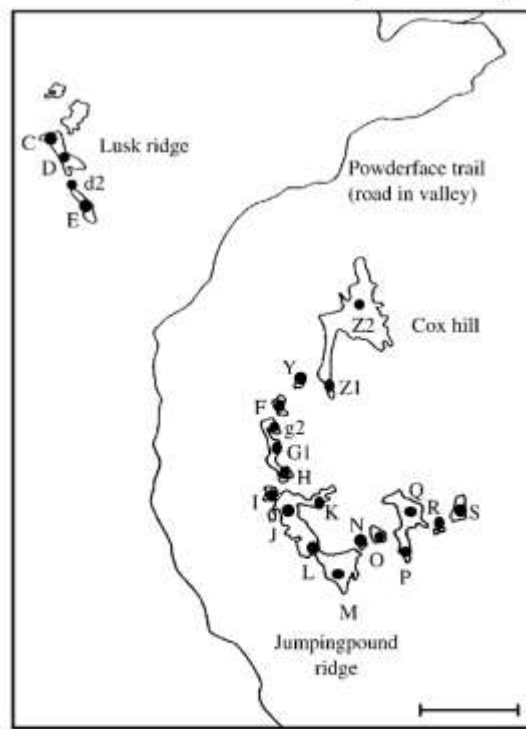
Among- and within-patch components of genetic diversity respond at different rates to habitat fragmentation: an empirical demonstration

Nusha Keyghobadi^{1*}, Jens Roland², Stephen F. Matter³ and Curtis Strobeck²

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Apollo Butterfly (*Parnassius apollo* L.) in Europe – its History, Decline and Perspectives of Conservation

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PIENIŃSKI PARK NARODOWY



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Fig. 6 Sobczański Gorge at Trzy Korony foothills (the Pieniny Mts). (A) Past view (the 1920s) (courtesy of K. Karwowski and Pieniny National Park archive); (B) Recent view (1995) from the same perspective as in A (photo: M. Nakonieczny).



M.S. Fred & J.E. Brommer / Conservation Evidence (2015) 12, 8-13

Translocation of the endangered apollo butterfly *Parnassius apollo* in southern Finland

Marianne S. Fred¹ & Jon E. Brommer^{2*}

¹ Aronia Research and Development Institute, Novia University of Applied Sciences, Finland

² Department of Biology, University of Turku, Finland.



Logan Crees

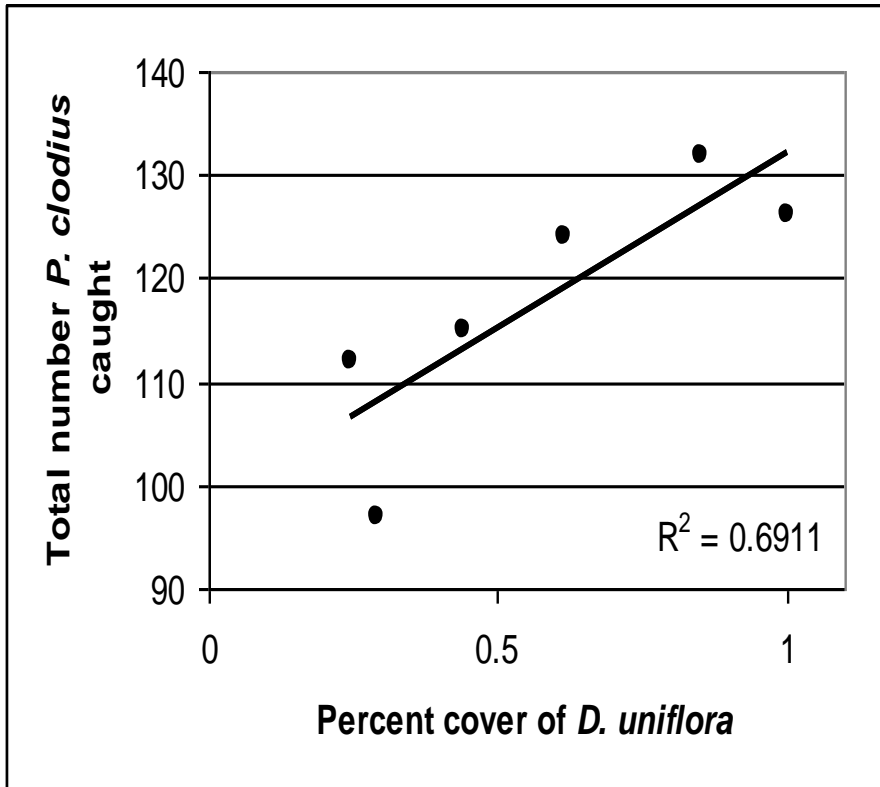
Survival, movement, and resource use of the butterfly *Parnassius clodius*

JULIA N. AUCKLAND, DIANE M. DEBINSKI and WILLIAM
R. CLARK Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University, U.S.A.

- Large population, conducive to mark-recapture study
- Population in Pilgrim creek has ranged from 200-800 individuals marked per year
- Males come out first and are much more numerous
- Percent recapture up to 25%



Host Plant Relationship



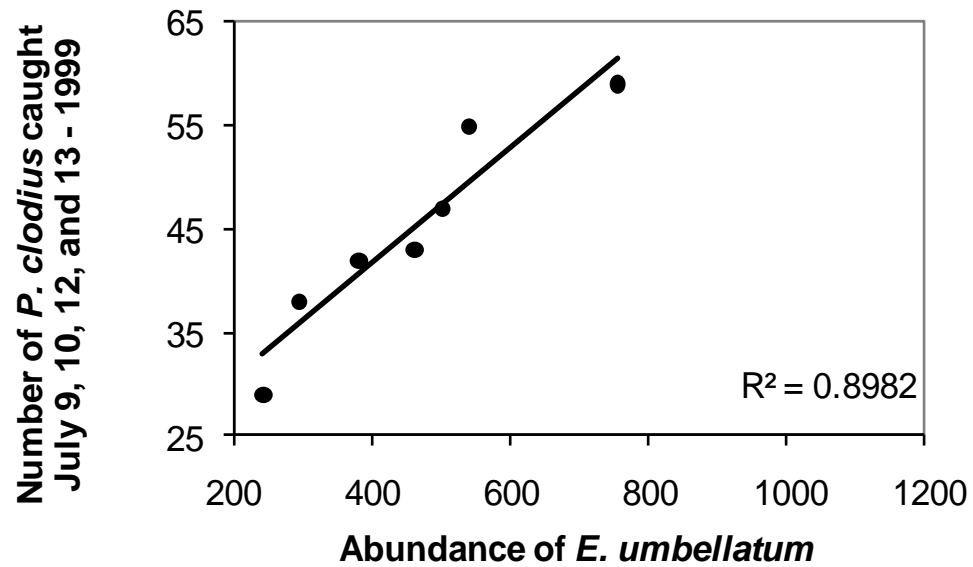
Logan Creeks

Dicentra uniflora (Fumariaceae)

$F=8.95$, $df=5$, $P<0.0403$

Auckland, Debinski and Clark, 2004 *Ecological Entomology*

Nectar Plant Relationship



$F=0.38$, d.f.=6, $P<0.01$

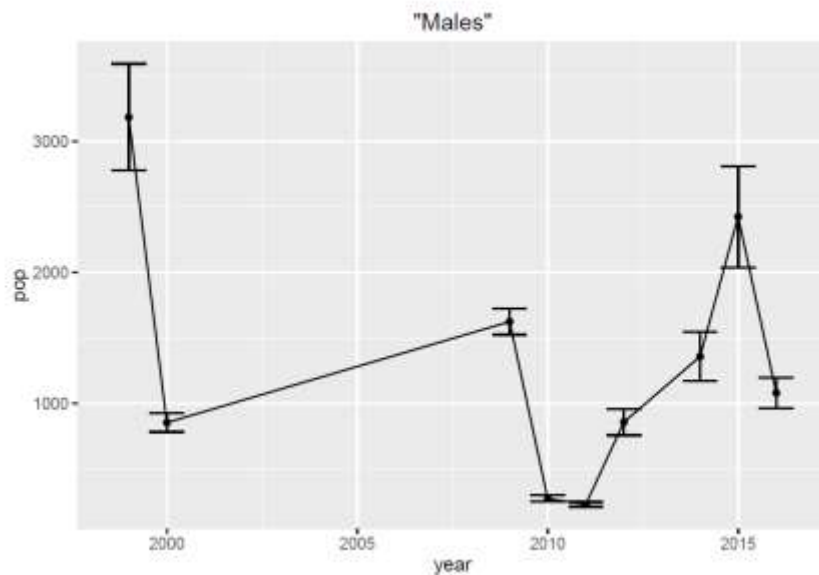
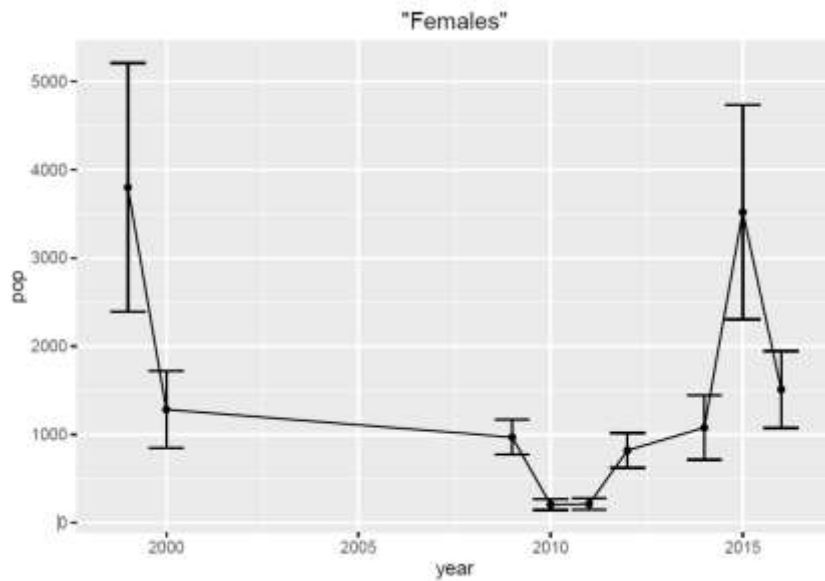


Auckland, Debinski and Clark, 2004 *Ecological Entomology*

Connecting Plant and Insect Responses



Pilgrim Creek Population Size over Time

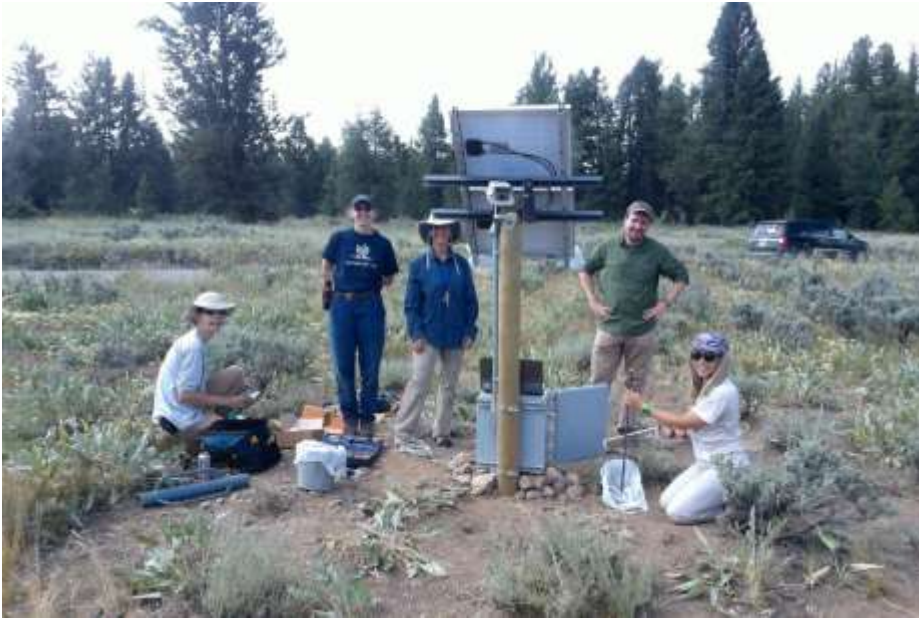


McCombs and Debinski, unpublished data






AmericaView Phenocams



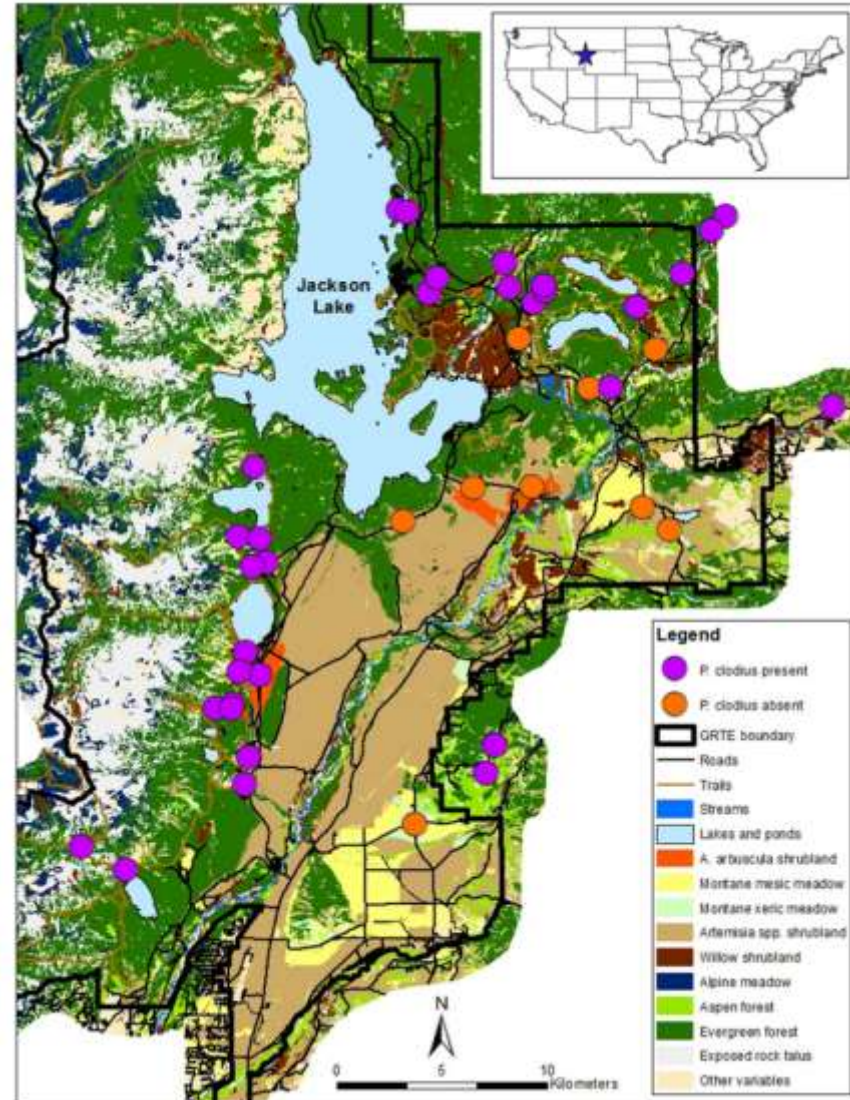
<http://www.americaview.org/>

<http://phenocam.sr.unh.edu/webcam/gallery/>

Occupancy modeling of *Parnassius clodius* butterfly populations in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Kimberly E. Szcodronski^{1,2}  · Diane M. Debinski^{1,3} · Robert W. Klaver⁴

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Effects of experimentally reduced snowpack and passive warming on montane meadow plant phenology and floral resources

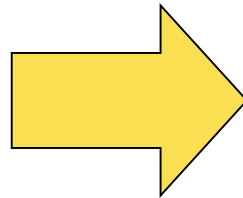
J. A. SHERWOOD,¹ D. M. DEBINSKI,^{1,†} P. C. CARAGEA,² AND M. J. GERMINO³

¹*Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011 USA*

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³*US Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Boise, Idaho 83706 USA*

- Experimental snow removal and temperature modification



Experimental Design

Control: No Treatment



Snow Removal



Passive Warming



Passive Warming and Snow Removal





Study Site at Pilgrim Creek, May 12, 2011



Study Site at Pilgrim Creek, July 18, 2011

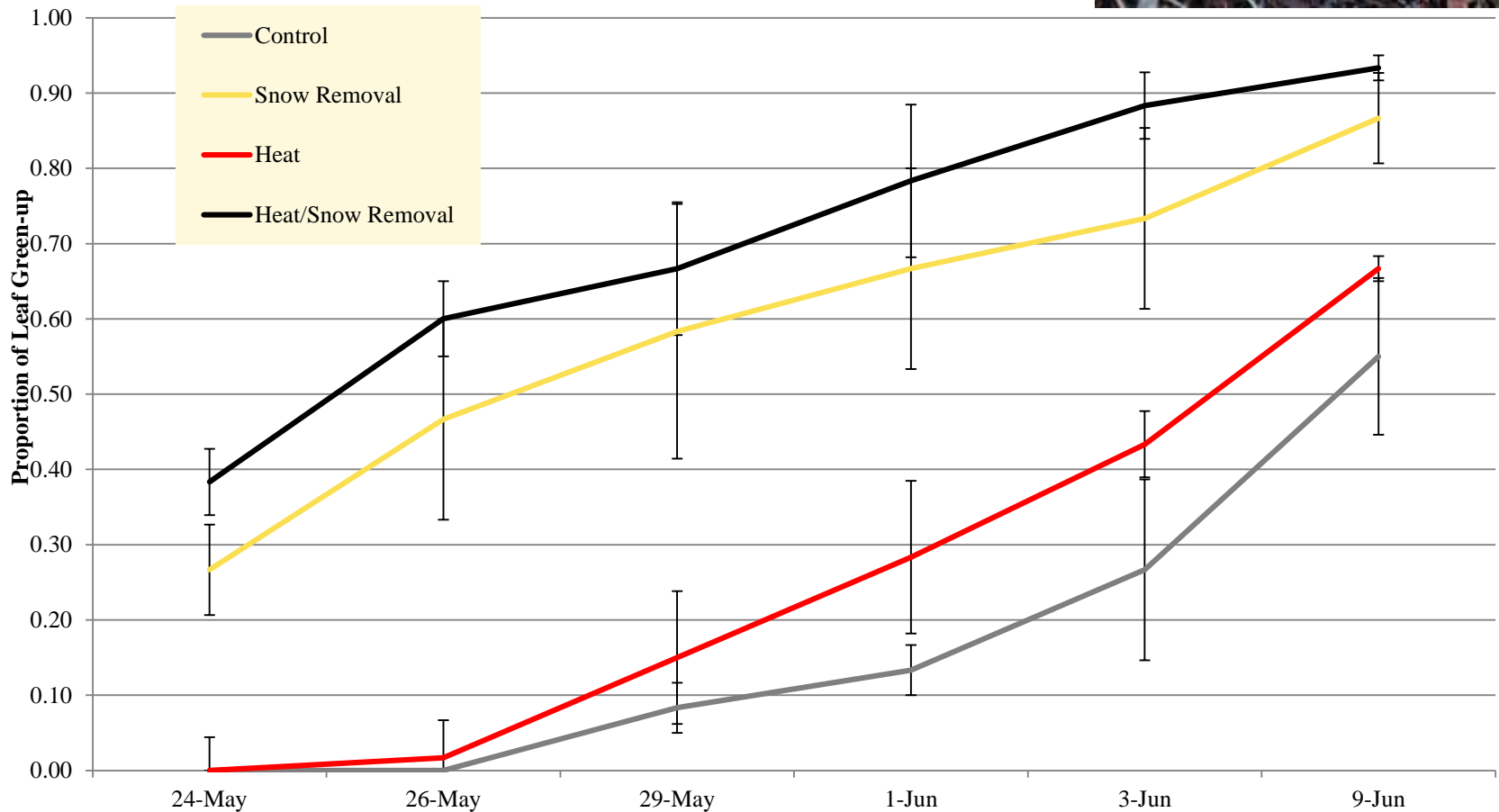


Plant Growth & Phenology Assessment



Green-up Date

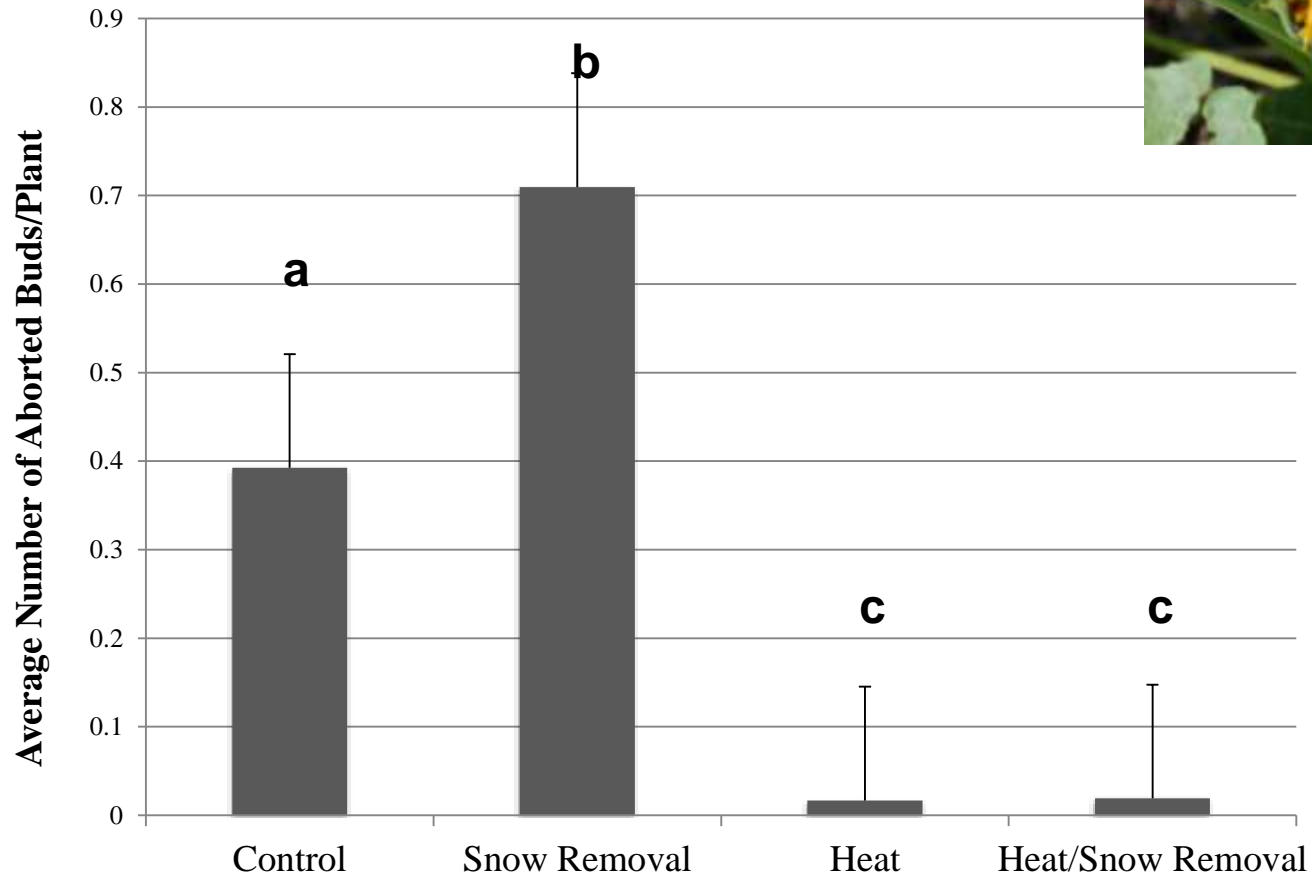
Average *Eriogonum umbellatum* Green-up Date



(Sherwood, Debinski, Caragea, and Germino 2017 *Ecosphere*)

Frost damage

Balsamorhiza sagittata



(Sherwood, Debinski, Caragea, and Germino 2017 *Ecosphere*)

Nectar Response of Sulphurflower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)



Snow removal

- Concentration (\leftrightarrow)
- Volume (\leftrightarrow)
- Sugar mass (\uparrow a little)

Heat

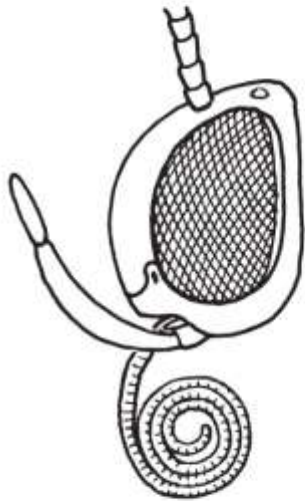
- Concentration (\uparrow a lot)
- Volume (\downarrow a little)
- Sugar mass (\leftrightarrow)

McCombs and Debinski (in prep.)

Nectar and Pollinators

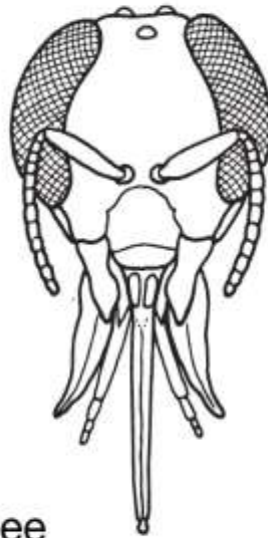
Insect mouthparts

sucking



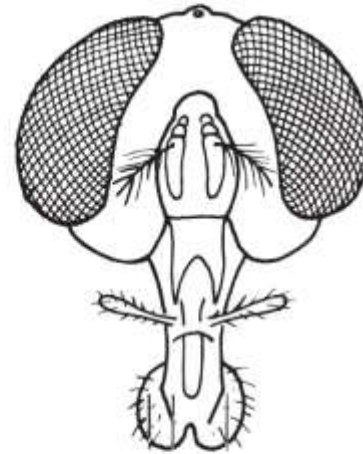
butterfly
(side view)

lapping



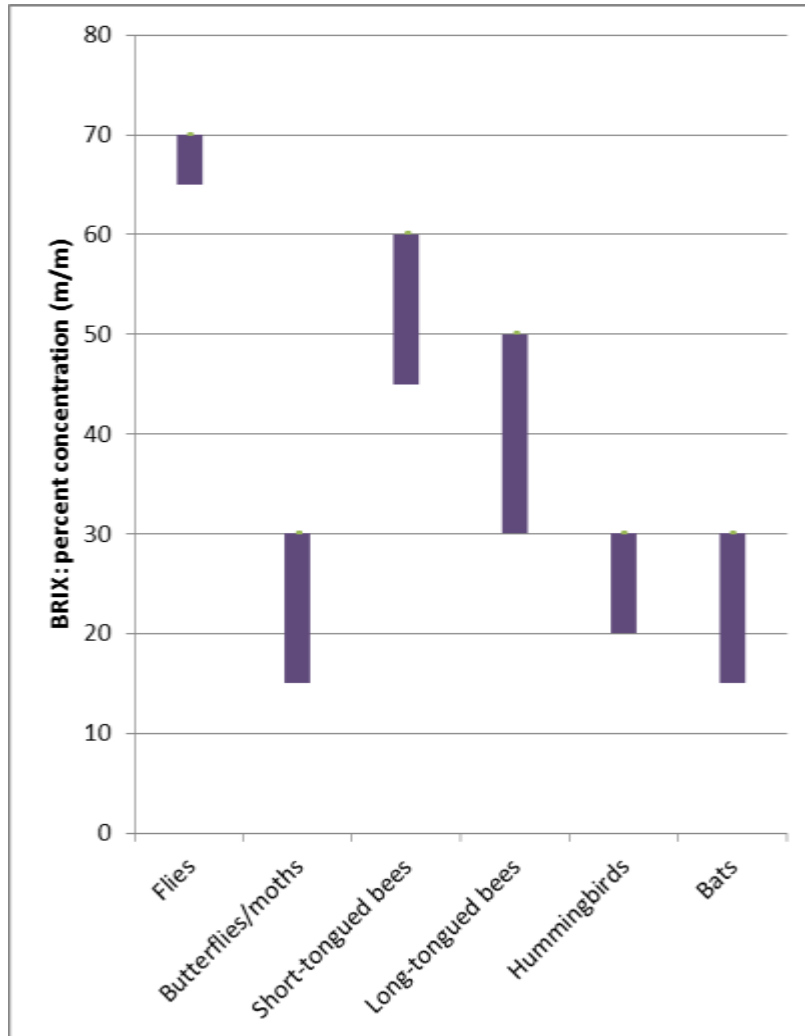
bee
(front view)

lapping



housefly
(front view)

Nectar Concentration

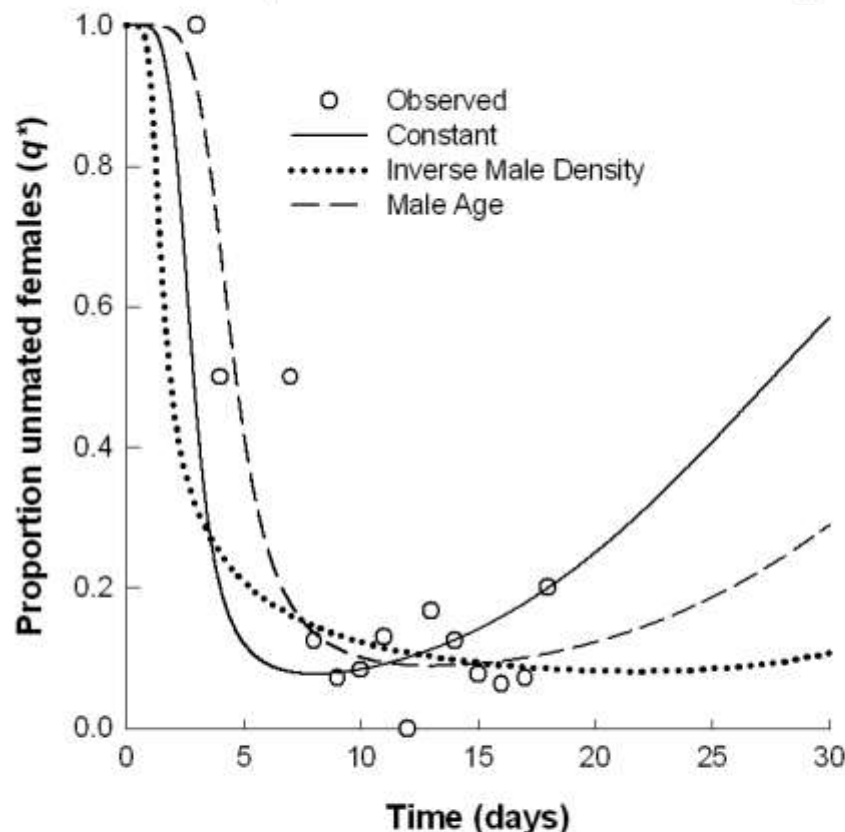


Nectar concentration preferences for pollinators

Adapted from Willmer, 2011

Reproductive asynchrony in natural butterfly populations and its consequences for female matelessness

Justin M. Calabrese^{1*}, Leslie Ries^{2,6}, Stephen F. Matter³, Diane M. Debinski^{4,7},
Julia N. Auckland^{4,8}, Jens Roland⁵ and William F. Fagan^{2,9}



K. Szcodronski

Occurrence of Sarmentosin and Other Hydroxynitrile Glucosides in *Parnassius* (Papilionidae) Butterflies and Their Food Plants

Nanna Bjarnholt · Mirosław Nakonieczny ·
Andrzej Kędzioński · Diane M. Debinski ·
Stephen F. Matter · Carl Erik Olsen · Mika Zagrobelny

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Logan Crees

OBSERVATIONS OF MELOE (COLEOPTERA) LARVAE HITCHHIKING ON *PARNASSIUS CLODIUS*
(PAPILIONIDAE) IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Additional key words: Triungulin

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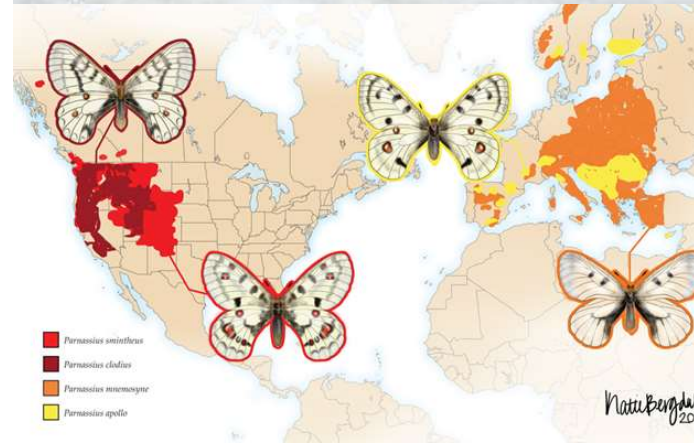




Take Home Messages?

Summary

- Mark-recapture studies show high interannual variation in population size – snowmelt conditions may be key.
- Not all sagebrush meadows are equally valuable as *Parnassius* habitat.
- Warming and decreased snow could affect number of nectar flowers & nectar characteristics.
- *Parnassius* allow for cross-continental comparisons of environmental response – concept of sister parks.
- There is always more to learn...



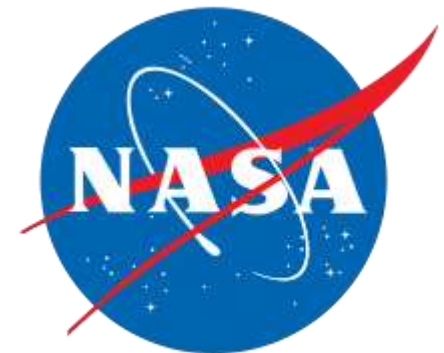
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- Grand Teton Natural History Association
- Yellowstone National Park
- Grand Teton National Park
- U.S. Forest Service
- Big Sky Institute
- Iowa State University Experiment Station
- Denver Zoological Foundation
- Iowa Space Grant Consortium
- NASA
- Xerces Society
- Decagon Instruments
- Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research
- Montana State University



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