



How Species Interact: Altering the Standard View on Trophic Ecology

Roger Arditi, Lev R. Ginzburg

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How Species Interact: Altering the Standard View on Trophic Ecology Roger Arditi, Lev R. Ginzburg Understanding the functioning of ecosystems requires the understanding of the interactions between consumer species and their resources. How do these interactions affect the variations of population abundances? How do population abundances determine the impact of predators on their prey? The view defended in this book is that the "null model" that most ecologists tend to use is inappropriate because it assumes that the amount of prey consumed by each predator is insensitive to the number of conspecifics. The authors argue that the amount of prey available per predator, rather than the absolute abundance of prey, is the basic determinant of the dynamics of predation. This so-called ratio dependence is shown to be a much more reasonable "null model."



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