
Plenary Talks

Predator – prey interaction in the boreal vole community – behavioral and survival game in the changing world

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Climate change and habitat fragmentation cause major threat for populations and challenge for individuals and their interactions. Predator-prey interaction is especially in our northern latitudes with strong seasonality modified by climate processes. I review results of a series of experiments in the cyclic bank vole – least weasel system, focusing also changing habitat or climate conditions affecting the interaction. Complicated network of predation cues, risk recognition by prey and behavioral and reproductive effects on prey voles is illustrated and discussed. In climate change scenarios the major expected change is happening in duration and stability of winter and snow cover. Snow provides thermoregulation, shelter for nest sites and hide from most predators. Predicted increase in instability of winter forms a major challenge, both for small mammal prey but also their small specialist predators in northern latitudes. Future studies focus on how the fear along the changing environment is experienced both by the vole prey when confronted by weasels, and by weasels when confronted by larger predators.

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Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent
Biology and Management
and
16th Rodens et Spatium

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Book of Abstracts



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