



RECOMMENDATION

Some thoughts on computational ecology from people who I'm sure use different passwords for each of their accounts

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A recommendation of

Poisot T, Labrie R, Larson E, and Rahlin A. Data-based, synthesis-driven: setting the agenda for computational ecology. *bioRxiv* 150128, ver 4 peer-reviewed and recommended by PCI Ecology (2018). DOI: 10.1101/150128



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Are you an ecologist who uses a computer or know someone that does? Even if your research doesn't rely heavily on advanced computational techniques, it likely hasn't escaped your attention that computers are increasingly being used to analyse field data and make predictions about the consequences of environmental change. So before artificial intelligence and robots take over from scientists, now is great time to read about how experts think computers could make your life easier and lead to innovations in ecological research. In "Data-based, synthesis-driven: setting the agenda for computational ecology", Poisot and colleagues [1] provide a brief history of computational ecology and offer their thoughts on how computational thinking can help to bridge different types of ecological knowledge. In this wide-ranging article, the authors share practical strategies for realising three main goals: (i) tighter integration of data and models to make predictions that motivate action by practitioners and policy-makers; (ii) closer interaction between data-collectors and data-users; and (iii) enthusiasm and aptitude for computational techniques in future generations of ecologists. The key, Poisot and colleagues argue, is for ecologists to "engage in meaningful dialogue across disciplines, and recognize the currencies of their collaborations." Yes, this is easier said than done. However, the journey is much easier with a guide and when everyone involved serves to benefit not only from the eventual outcome, but also the process.



References

- [1] Poisot T, Labrie R, Larson E, and Rahlin A. Data-based, synthesis-driven: setting the agenda for computational ecology. *bioRxiv* 150128, ver 4 peer-reviewed and recommended by PCI Ecology (2018). DOI: 10.1101/150128.

Appendix

Reviews by Matthieu Barbier and anonymous, DOI: 10.24072/pci.ecology.100002