

## **Insect biodiversity monitoring must be expanded**

Marked declines in insect populations are well documented in temperate settings. Sharp *et al.* show that this might be mirrored in the tropics (A. C. Sharp *et al. Nature* <https://doi.org/p6v9>; 2025).

Tropical regions harbour roughly 80% of the world's insect species, which form the basis of food webs and sustain ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control and nutrient cycling (M. J. W. Boyle *et al. Nature Rev. Biodivers.* **1**, 315–331; 2025). Yet insect surveys are often short-term, focus on a restricted set of taxa in temperate ecosystems and disregard species interactions.

Technologies such as DNA metabarcoding and computer vision can help researchers to document and monitor tropical insect populations and their ecological interactions (R. van Klink *et al. Trends Ecol. Evol.* **37**, 872–885; 2022), especially when integrated with citizen science projects such as the Smithsonian's Arthropod Initiative, led by one of us (Y.B.).

Sharp and colleagues' work shows that a fundamental shift in mindset is needed. Studying insect biodiversity is imperative to ensure planetary health under rapid environmental change.

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