

Plant Ecology Seminar

100206-FS2019-0

Spring Semester 2019

Wednesday 16:15-17:30, Room 80

1.5 ECTS

Structure of seminar

- > Members of the Plant Ecology group present their on-going research, or ideas for future research
- > Occasional presentations by guests and collaborators
- > Talks should be 30-40 minutes
- > Programme: ILIAS

Benefits for students

- > Overview of research in plant ecology group
- > Listen to research talks
- > Learn how science is communicated
- > Hear and participate in scientific debates

Requirements for 1.5 ECTS

- > Regular attendance, cannot pass if miss more than two talks (except for illness, family reasons, military service)
- > Homework: short essay about one of the seminar topics
 - Email a **plan + figure sketch** to caterina.penone@ips.unibe.ch not more than **10 days** after the seminar
- > Asking questions: read the papers in ILIAS before the Seminar

Writing the essay

- > Should be around 2000 words
- > Three sections
 - Background,
 - Summary of the Seminar
 - Discussion & Outlook
- > List of references cited in the text at the end of the essay

Background/ introduction

- > Broader scientific context
- > Why is this novel and interesting?
- > What hypotheses are being tested?
- > Start broad and progressively get more specific
- > Use Web of Science to search for literature

Summary of talk

- > Concisely and accurately summarise methods and results
 - How was the study designed?
 - How were data collected?
 - How were they analysed?
 - What effects were found? Significant?
- > How did the speaker interpret the results?
- > Do the results support the hypotheses?
- > Put it in your own words and finish with a short summary paragraph

Discussion and Outlook

- > Critically evaluate the talk
- > Were there any methodological issues?
- > What contribution does it make to the subject?
- > What are the open questions? How could they be tackled in a future study?
- > Finish with a conclusion giving your overall view of the talk

- > Compare with literature
- > Listen to the discussion and think about it

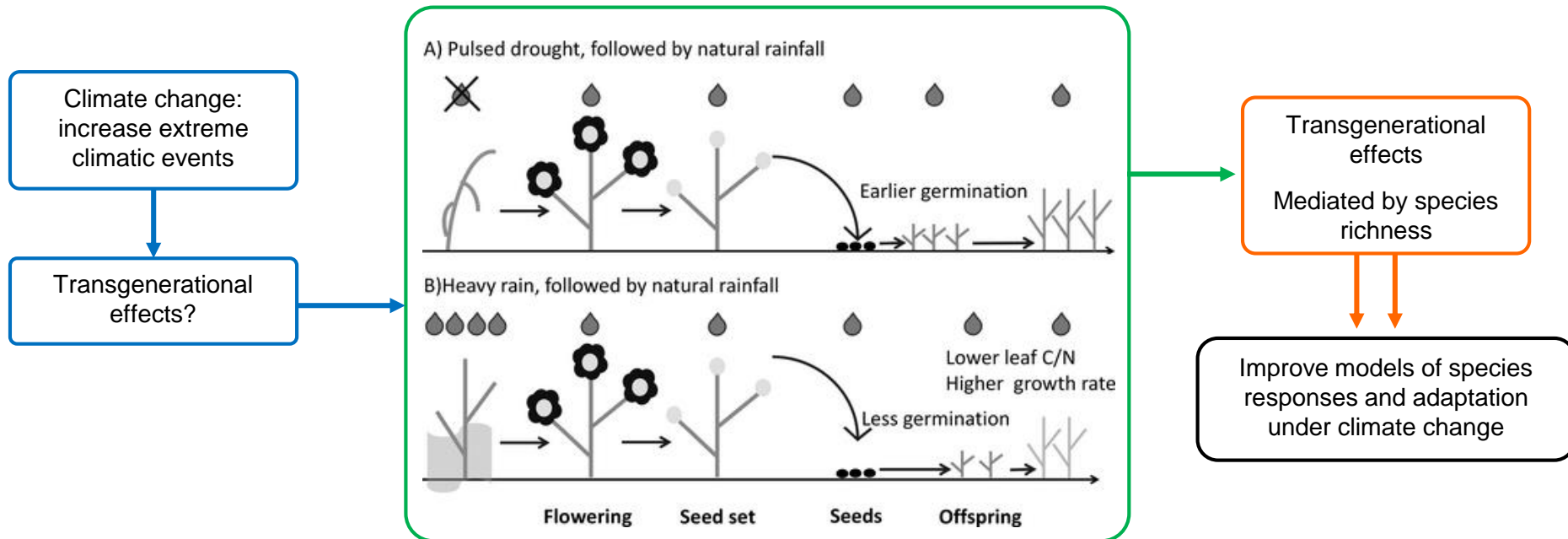
Abstract figure

- > Summarise the contents: background, methods, results, take-home message
- > Helps to structure the essay and think about important messages
- > Simple and clear, readable
- > Provide short description in a caption

- > Bonus for design (2 points max)

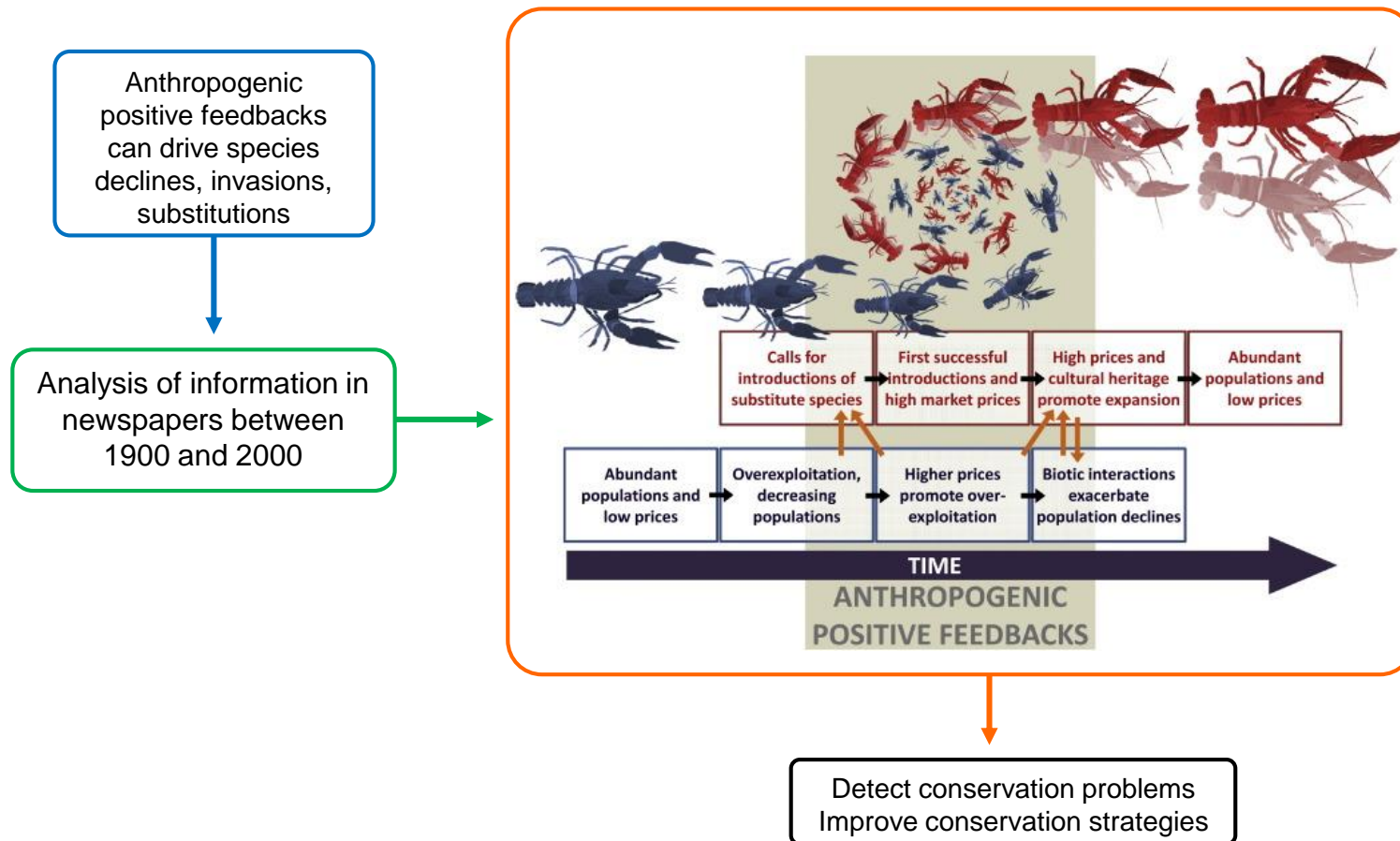
Abstract figure – example 1

- > Test of transgenerational effects on two species after extreme weather manipulations



Abstract figure – example 2

- > Species substitutions driven by anthropogenic positive feedbacks: Spanish crayfish species as a case study



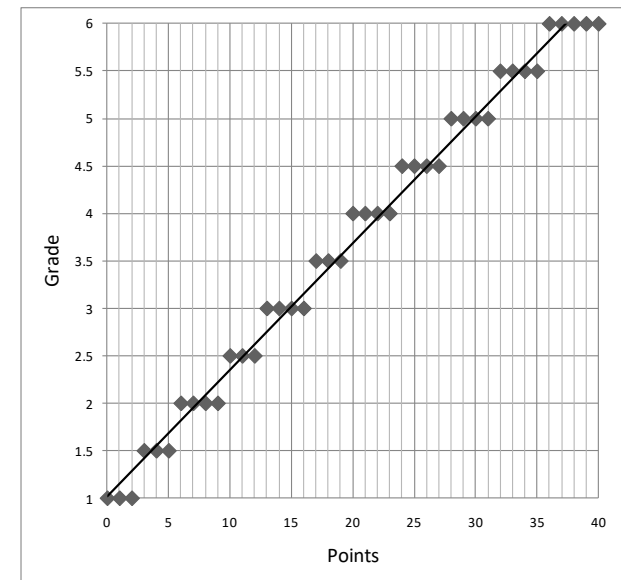
Marking

	fail	okay	Good	excellent	Weight	Max. points
Seminar summarized <i>Text: 7 points, Figure: 3 points</i>	0	2	3	4	25%	10
Explanation of broader context	0	2	3	4	18%	7.2
Criticism & further ideas	0	2	3	4	18%	3.2
Additional literature included	0	2	3	4	8%	3.2
Structure logical	0	2	3	4	8%	3.2
Language correct & precise	0	2	3	4	8%	3.2
Participation in discussions	0	2	3	4	15%	6
TOTAL						40

Participation in discussions:

- 0 - 1 : 0 points
- 2 - 4 : 2 points
- 5 - 8 : 3 points
- 9+ : 4 points

Bonus points for figure design: 2 points maximum



Deadlines

- > Select an essay topic within **one week after the first seminar**
- > Send me (caterina.penone@ips.unibe.ch) a plan of your essay and a sketch of your figure latest **10 days after the seminar** you're writing about
- > Send me your essays by June 10th