

Special Issue

Ecology of Young Animals

Message from the Guest Editors

Although most research on free-ranging animals focuses on adults, individuals experience different challenges and opportunities as they mature. Age-specific factors such as body size, physiology, and experience result in young stage animals differing from adults in their capabilities and risks. Young stage animals also can differ from adults ecologically in myriad ways, including their habitat use, social behavior, competitive landscape, food preferences, thermal requirements, and predation pressures. Owing to their inexperience, young animals are often inefficient and can experience higher energetic costs. Likewise, their smaller size relative to adults can result in ontogenetic variation in selection pressures. In many species, only a minority of individuals survive to maturity. Despite their vulnerability, ecological understanding of young stage animals, as well as the nature of changes in selective pressures throughout development, is slim compared to adults.

In this Special Issue on “Ecology of Young Animals”, we strive to close the knowledge gap between young and adult ecology, opening avenues to enhance biodiversity conservation and management efforts.

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Diversity (ISSN 1424-2818) is a scholarly journal that covers all areas of diversity research. Our distinguished editorial board and refereeing process ensures the highest degree of scientific rigor for publishing. Original research articles and timely reviews are released online, with unlimited free access.

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