

# Predation

*“Populační ekologie živočichů“*

Stano Pekár



# Predator categories



**True predators** - consume several animals and gain sustenance for their own fitness (spiders, lions)

**Parasitoids** - free adults but larvae developing on or within a host, consuming it prior to pupation, consume about single host (Hymenoptera, Diptera)

**Parasites** - live in close association with a host, gain sustenance from the host, but often do not cause mortality (Acari, Trematodes)

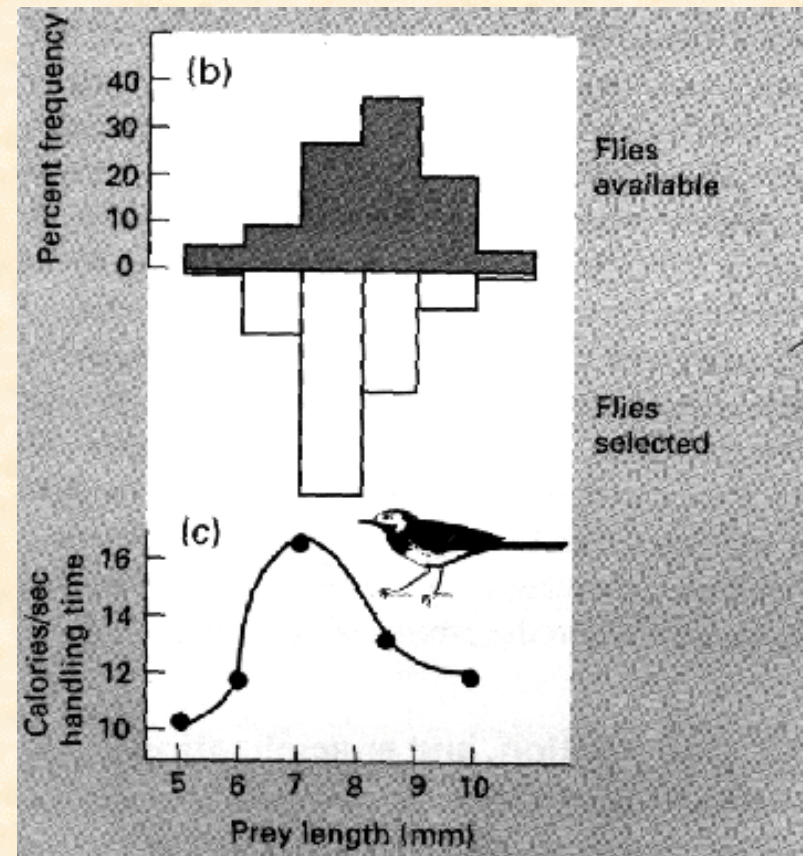
**Herbivores** - feed on plants, may totally consume plants (seed-eaters) or partially (aphids, cows)



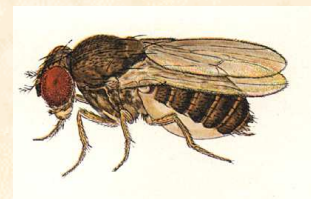


# Dietary specialisation

- ▶ monophagous (single prey type)
  - ▶ oligophagous (few prey types)
  - ▶ polyphagous/euryphagous (many prey types)
- not capable of consuming all prey types
- 
- ▶ predators choose most profitable prey
  - select prey items for which the gain is greatest (energy intake per time spent handling)



- ▶ predators tend to specialise to a greater or lesser extent during evolution
  - monophagy evolved where prey exerts pressures which demand morphological adaptations
  - polyphagy evolved where prey was unpredictable
- ▶ true predators - majority are polyphagous
- ▶ parasites - commonly monophagous due to intimate association with hosts, their life-cycle is tuned to that of their host
  - ▶ parasitoids - often monophagous but some are polyphagous presumably because adults are free living
  - ▶ herbivores - rather polyphagous, many insect herbivores are specialised as a result of adaptation to plant secondary metabolites (*Drosophila pachea* consumes rotten tissues of *Senita* cactus which contain poisonous alkaloids)



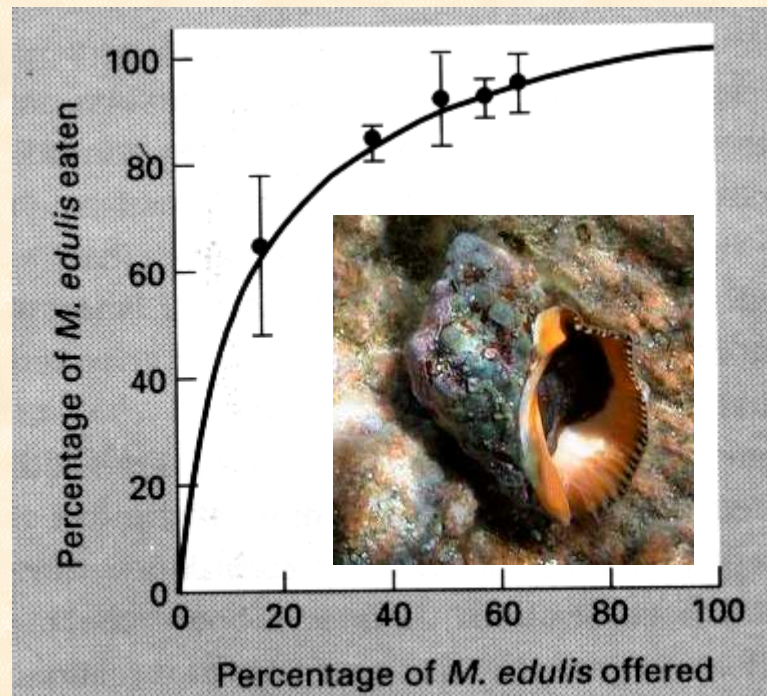


# Preference & switching

- ▶ even polyphagous predators prefer certain prey
- constant preference irrespective of prey density
- switching to more common prey

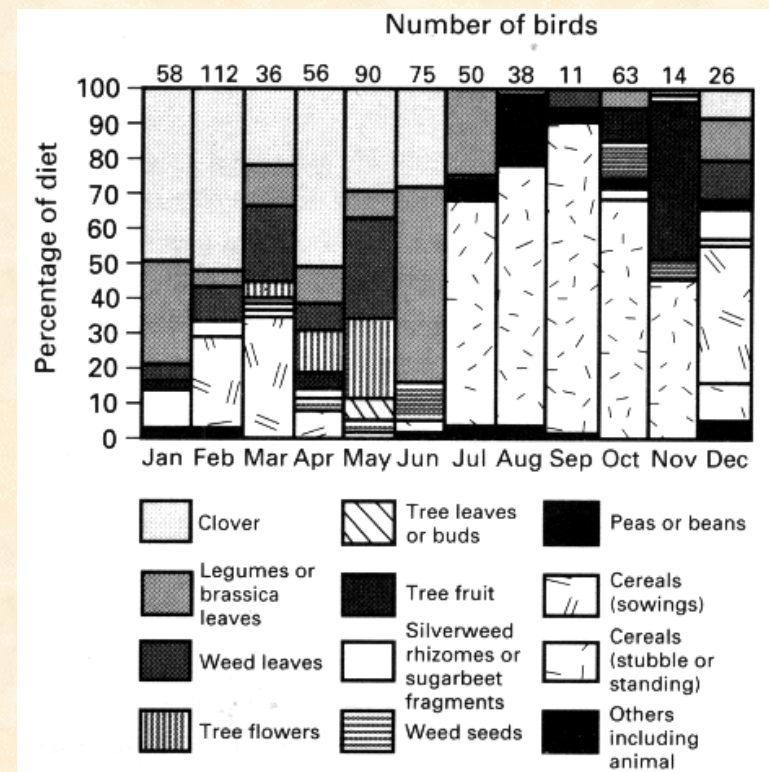


*Thais* preferred *Mytilus edulis* over *M. californianus*



Murdoch & Oaten (1975)

Seasonal shift in *Columba*

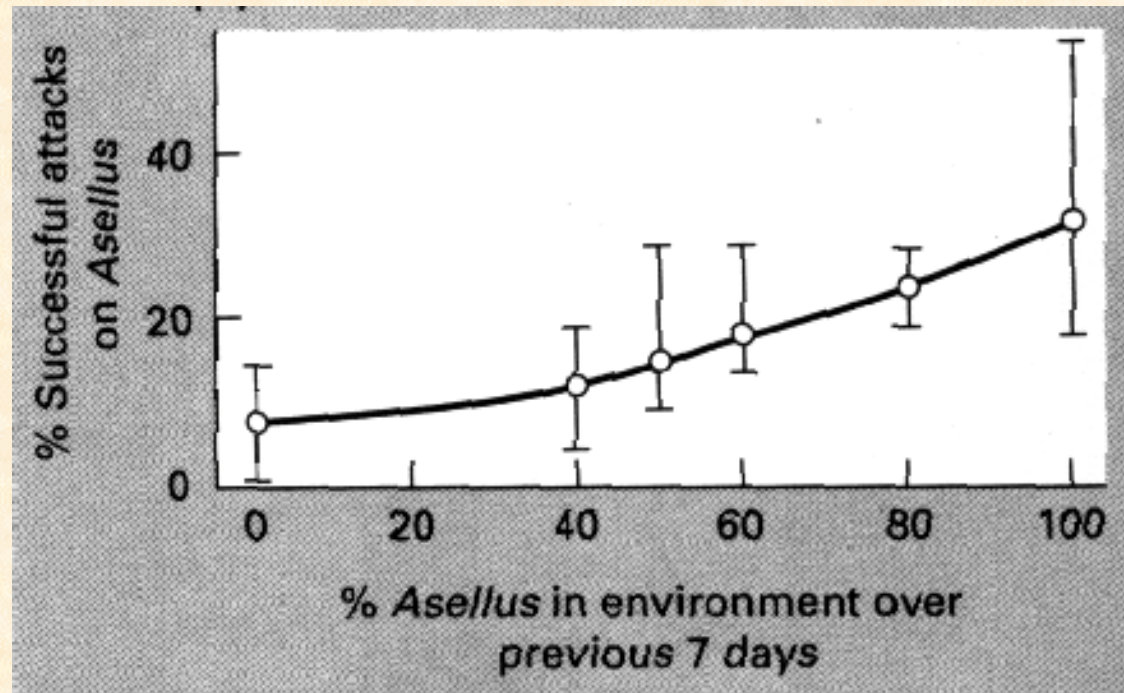


Murton et al. (1964)

► switching

- on individual level: certain individuals develop „searching image“ that facilitate the search for prey
- on population level: proportion of specialists is changing their preference

Effect of experience on the foraging success of *Notonecta* in the capture of *Asellus*

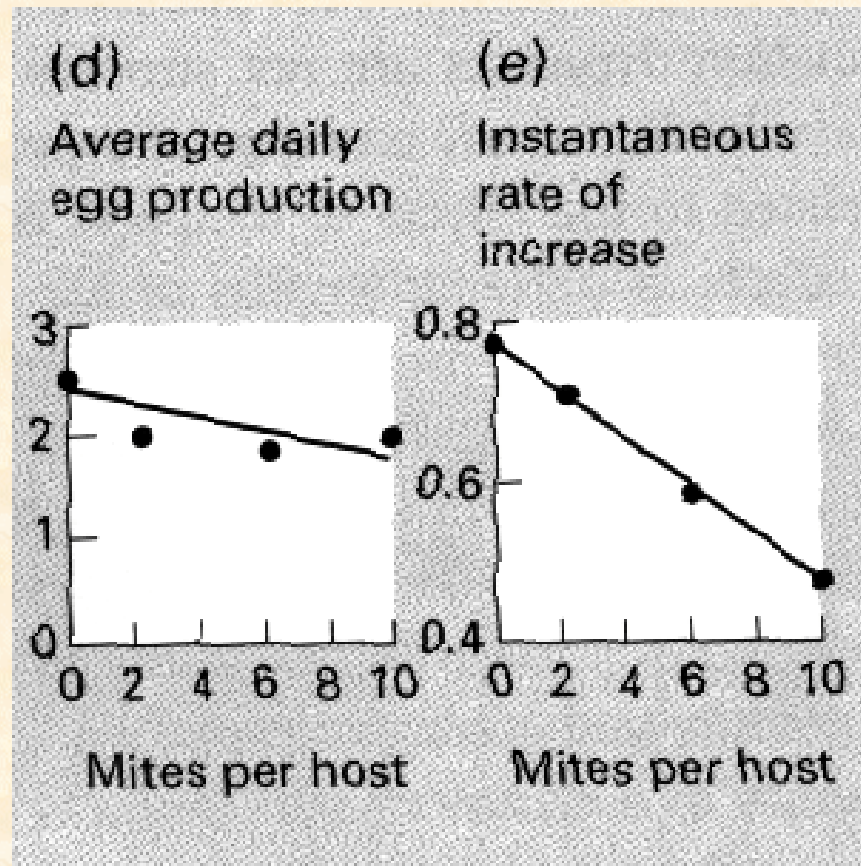




# Effect on fitness of prey

- ▶ predation has positive effect on population of prey because reduce intraspecific competition - stabilise prey population dynamic
- ▶ true predators and parasitoids reduce fitness of prey to „0“
  - *Mustela* consumed mainly solitary and injured individuals, so it has little effect on the *Ondatra* population growth
- ▶ caterpillars defoliate partially so that re-growth can occur, but cause reduction in fertility
- ▶ parasites - reduce fitness partially, effect is correlated with the burden

Negative effect of mite parasites on *Hydrometra*



Lanciani (1975)

# Plant-Herbivore



# Model

- ▶ consume small amount of many different plant species
- ▶ consume a lot during life
- ▶ functional response Type II and III
- ▶ plants are not killed only reduced in biomass
- ▶ similar to predator-prey models



$V$  .. plant biomass

$a$  .. assimilation rate

$F$  .. efficiency of removal

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = rV \left( \frac{K - V}{K} \right) - \frac{FNV}{1 + FNT_h}$$

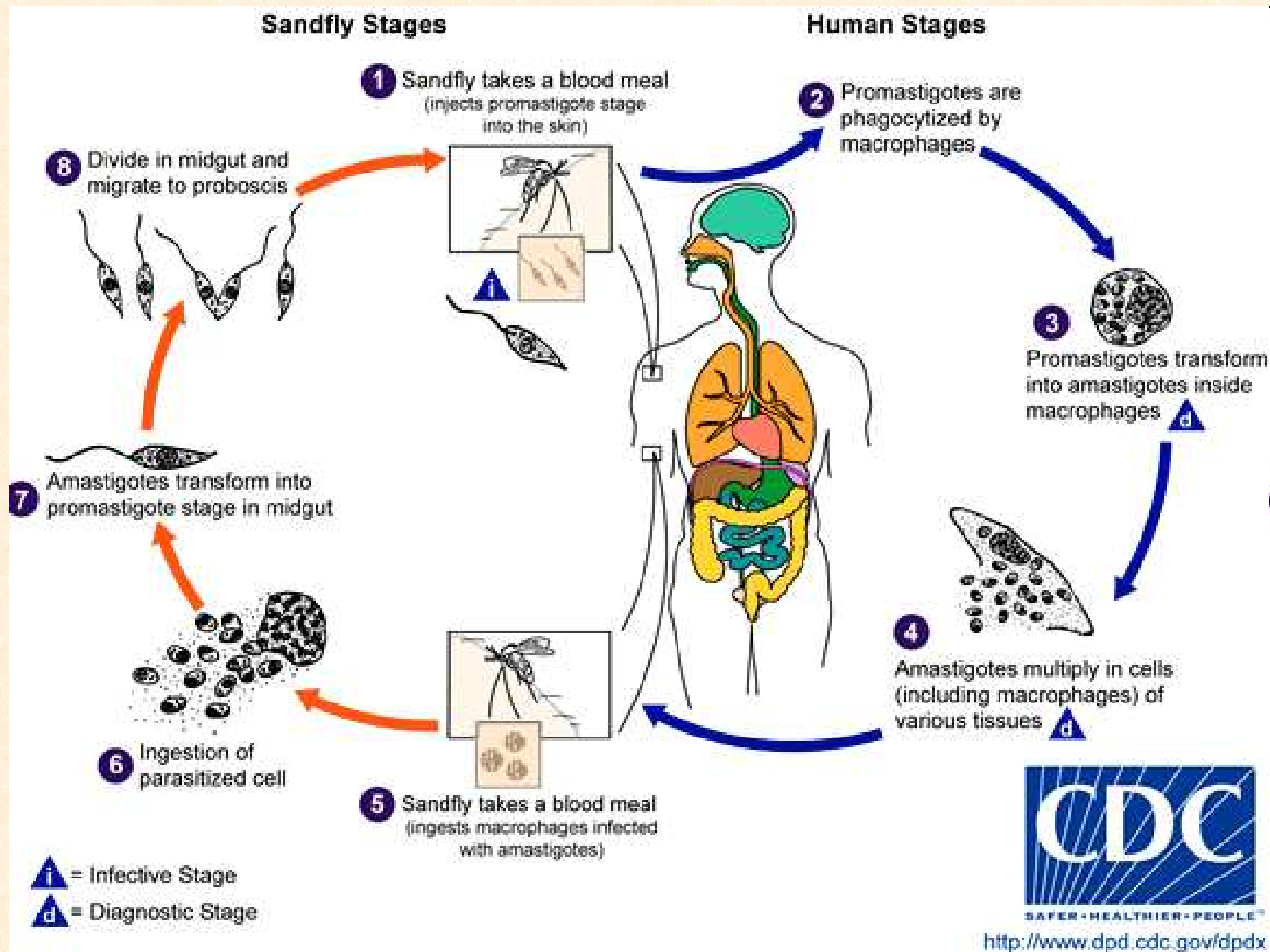
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{aFNV}{1 + FNT_h} - mN$$



# Host-Pathogen

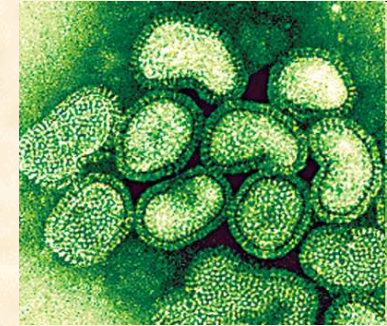


# Leishmania



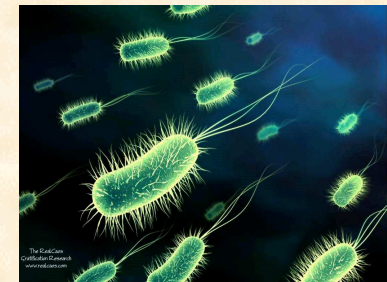
# Agents

- ▶ microparasites: viruses, bacteria, protozoans
  - reproduce rapidly in host
  - level of infection depends not on the number of agents but on the host response



swine flu virus

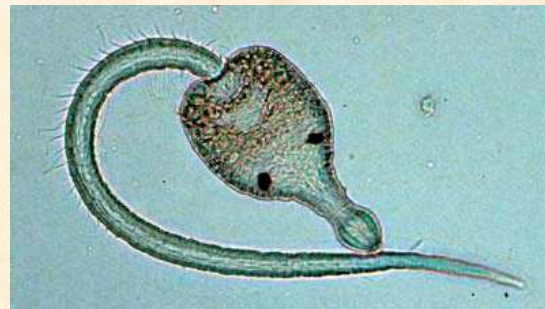
- ▶ macroparasites - helminths
  - reproduce in a vector
  - level of infection depends on the number



*E. coli* (EHEC)

- ▶ incidence .. number of new infections per unit time
- ▶ prevalence .. proportion of population infected =  $1/N$

cercaria



nematode

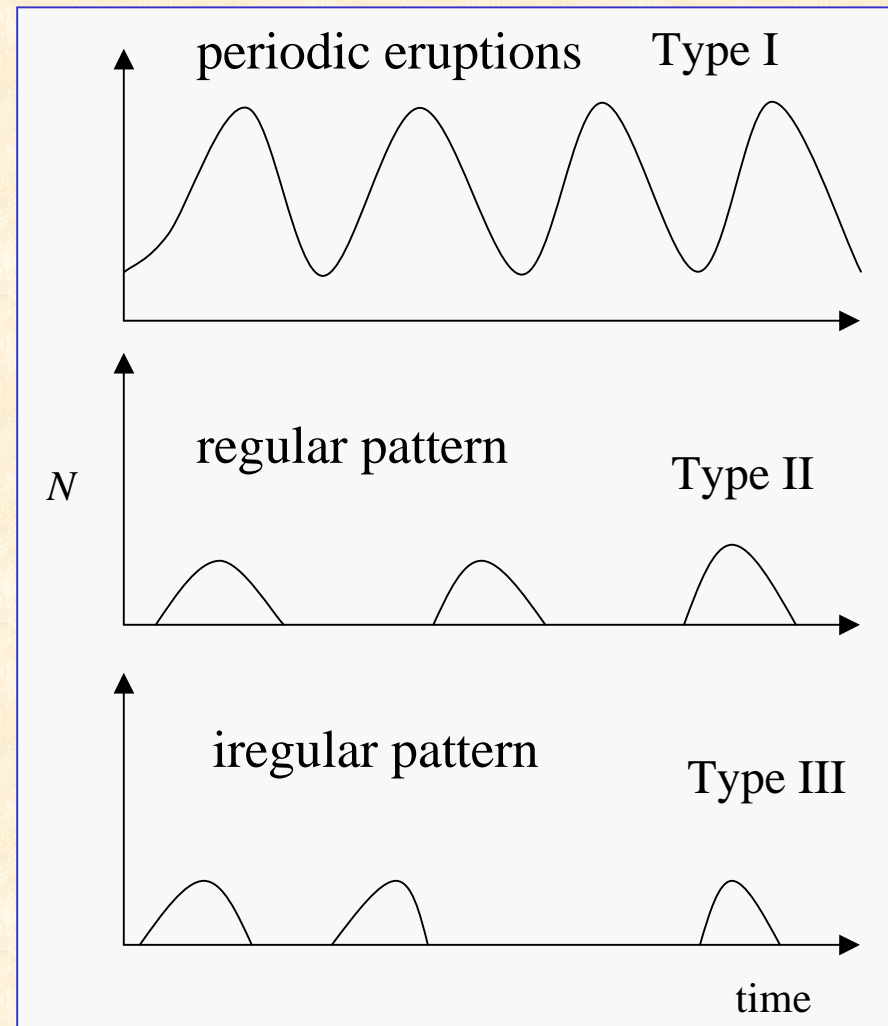


# Epidemiology

- ▶ predicts rates of disease spread
- ▶ predicts expected level of infection
  
- ▶ number of deaths caused by disease exceeds of all wars
  
- ▶ affect also animals
  - rinderpest introduced by Zebu cattle to South Africa in 1890
  - 90% buffalo population was wiped out
  
- ▶ biological control
  - Cydia pomonella* granulosis virus



- ▶ epidemics occur in cycles
- ▶ follows 4 stages:
  - establishment - pathogen increases after invasion
  - persistence - pathogen persists within host population
  - spread - spreads to other non-infected regions, reaches peak
  - epidemics terminates

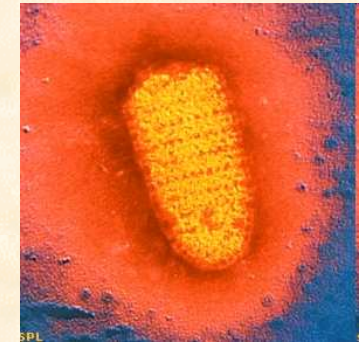




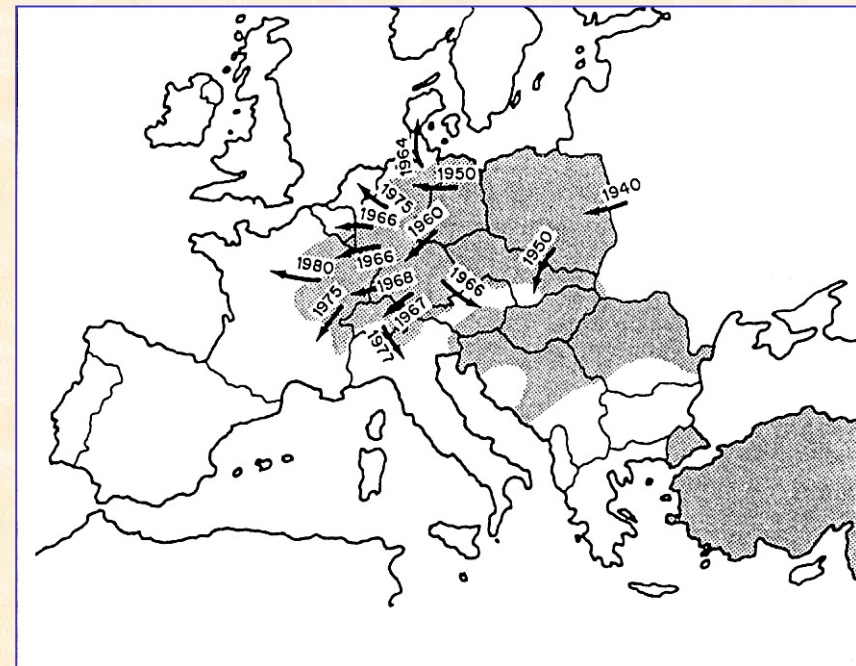
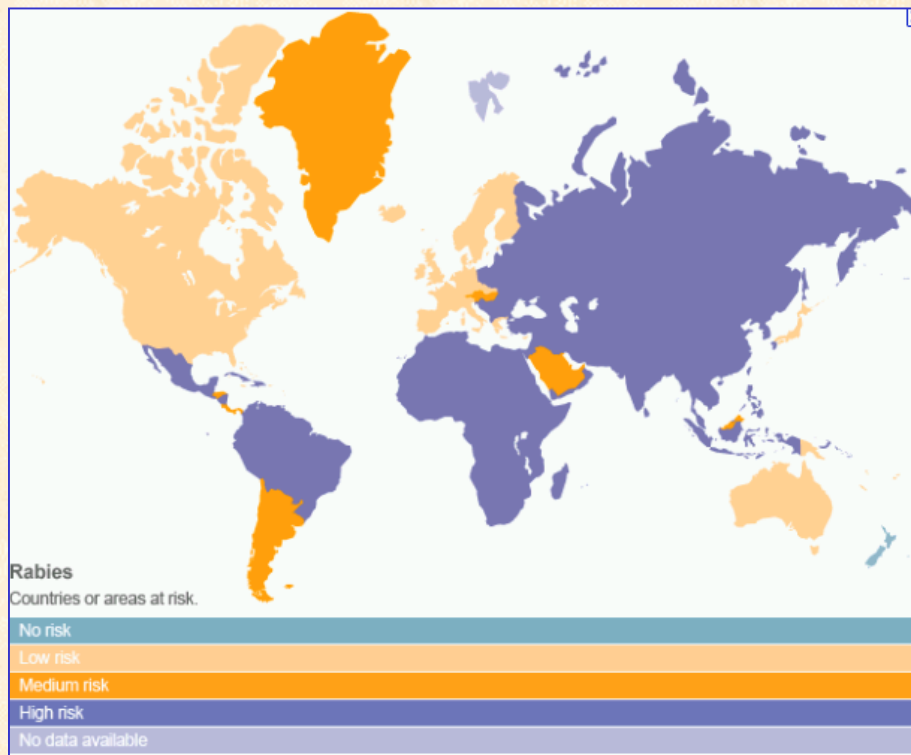
▶ rabies in Europe spread from Poland  
1939

- hosts: foxes, badgers, roe-deer

▶ spread rate of 30-60 km/year

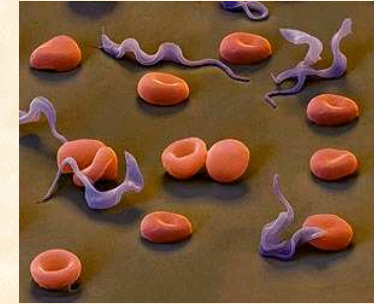


virus



Spread of rabies (Bacon 1985)

# Host-pathogen/parasite system



▶ used to simulate spread of a disease in the human population or in the biological control

▶ models:

- Kermack & McKendrick (1927)

- later developed by Anderson & May (1980, 1981)

▶ 3 components:

-  $S$  .. susceptible

-  $I$  .. infected

-  $R$  .. resistant/recovered and immune + dead individuals - can not transmit disease

- latent population - infected but not infectious

- vectors ( $V$ ) and pathogens ( $P$ )

- malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes, hosts become infected only when they have contact with the vector

- the number of vectors carrying the pathogens is important

- such system is further composed of uninfected and infected vectors



# Kermack-McKendrick model

▶  $\beta$  .. transmission rate - number of new infections per unit time  
 $\beta SI$  .. density-dependent transmission function (proportional to the number of contacts)

- mass action

- analogous to search efficiency in predator-prey model

$1/\beta$  .. average time for encountering infected individual

▶  $\gamma$  .. recovery rate of infected hosts  
(either die or become immune)

$\gamma = 1/\text{duration of disease}$

$$S_0 \gg I_0$$

- ignores population change (increase of  $S$ )

## SI model

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta SI$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \gamma I$$

# Outbreaks

▶ outbreak (epidemics) will occur if  $S > \frac{\gamma}{\beta}$

- i.e. when density of  $S$  is high

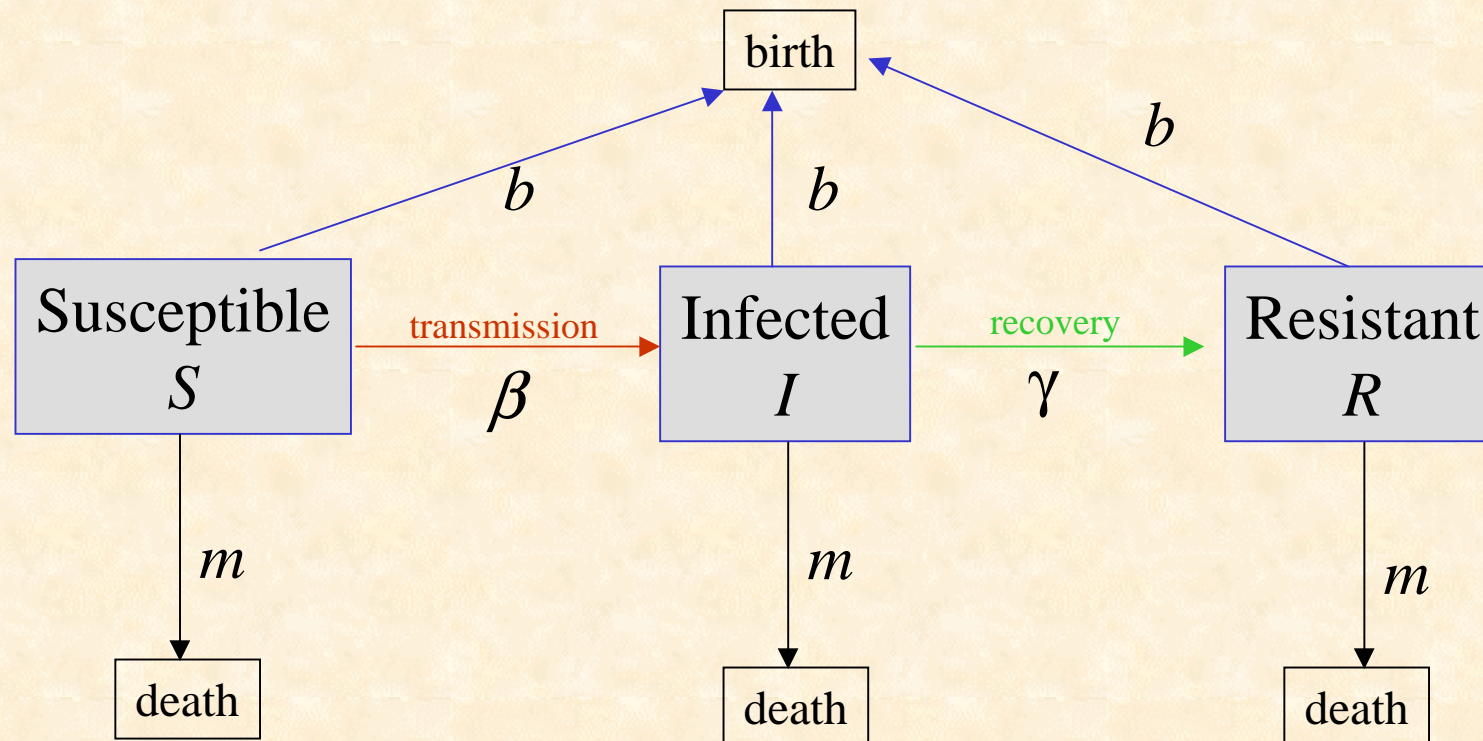
▶ making the population size small will halt the spread:  $S < \frac{\gamma}{\beta}$

▶ vaccination of  $S$ , culling or isolation of  $I$  will stop disease spread



# Anderson-May model

- ▶ host population is dynamic
- ▶  $b$  .. host birth rate  
=1/host life-span, given exponential growth and constant population size
- newborns are susceptible
- ▶  $m$  .. host mortality due to other causes



# SIR model

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = b(S + I + R) - \beta SI - mS$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \gamma I - mI$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I - mR$$

$N$  .. total population of hosts per area

$$N = S + I + R$$

- ▶  $R_0$  .. basic reproductive rate of the disease
- number of secondary cases that primary infection produces
- if  $R_0 > 1$  .. outbreak is plausible

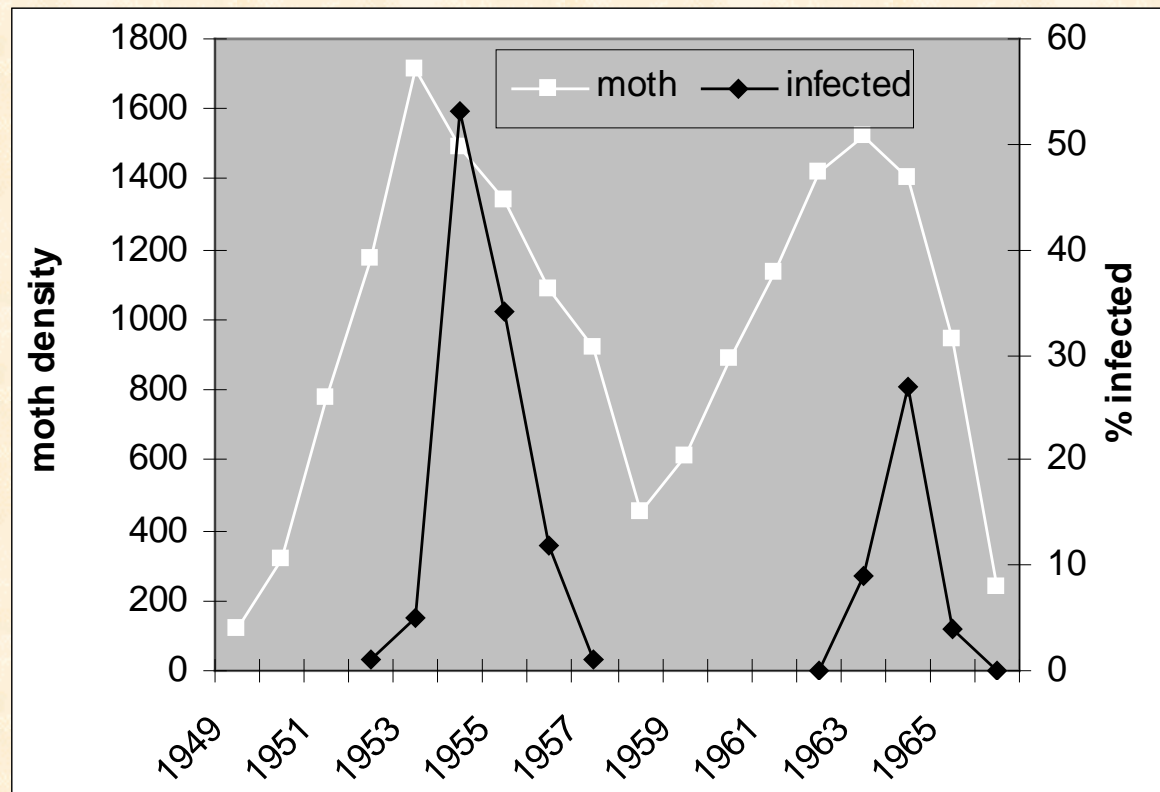
$$R_0 = \frac{\beta N}{b + \gamma + m}$$



# Biological control

- ▶ fast biocontrol effect is achieved only with viruses with high  $\beta$
- ▶ low host population is achieved with pathogens with lower  $\beta$

Population dynamic of a moth and the associated granulosis virus



# Example 23

Rabies has occurred in two cities. In one city 75% of dogs were vaccinated, in the other only 5%. In both cities there are 20 dogs/km<sup>2</sup>. It is known that rabies lasts for 5 days ( $d$ ). The dog lifespan ( $l$ ) is 10 years. One dog per 10 days ( $T$ ) becomes infected. Density of dogs is constant, thus mortality ( $m$ ) is equal to natality ( $b$ ).

1. Estimate parameter ( $b, m, \beta, \gamma$ ) values from given data.
2. Use SIR model for each city for next 60 days.
3. Will there be epidemics (more than 50% infected)?
4. How the disease dynamic will be affected by dog isolation?

$$m = b = 0 \qquad \beta = \frac{1}{T} \qquad \gamma = \frac{1}{d}$$



```
sir<-function(t,y,param){
S<-y[1]
I<-y[2]
R<-y[3]
with(as.list(param),{
dS.dt<-b*(S+I+R)-B*I*S-m*S
dI.dt<-B*I*S-g*I-m*I
dR.dt<-g*I-m*R
return(list(c(dS.dt,dI.dt,dR.dt))))}
```

```
g<-1/5
b<-0
B<-1/10
m<-b
```

```
N<-20;I<-1;R<-1;S<-N-I-R
time<-seq(0,60,0.1)
pa<-c(b=b,B=B,m=m,g=g)
library(deSolve)
out<-data.frame(ode(c(S,I,R),time,sir,pa,hmax=0.01))
matplot(time,out[,-1],type="l",lty=1:3,col=1)
legend("right",c("S","I","R"),lty=1:3)
```

```
N<-20;I<-1;R<-15;S<-N-I-R
time<-seq(0,60,0.1)
pa<-c(b=b,B=B,m=m,g=g)
library(deSolve)
out<-data.frame(ode(c(S,I,R),time,sir,pa,hmax=0.01))
matplot(time,out[,-1],type="l",lty=1:3,col=1)
legend("right",c("S","I","R"),lty=1:3)
```

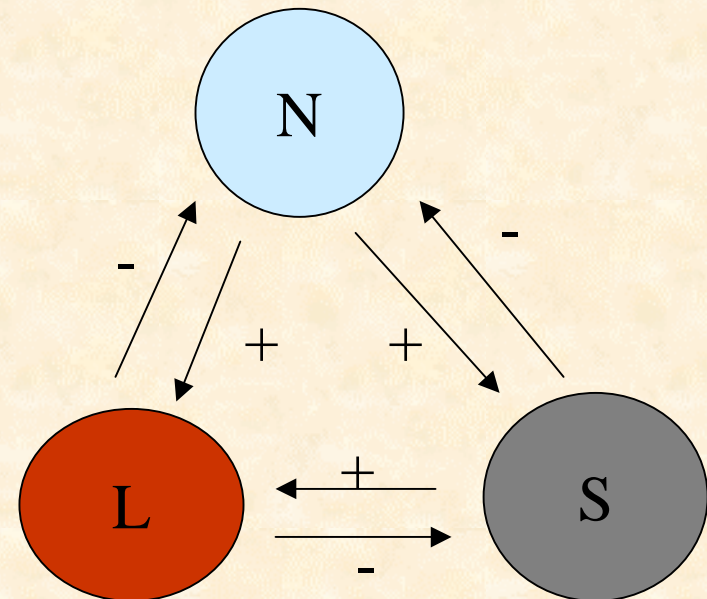
```
N<-20;I<-1;R<-1;S<-N-I-R
time<-seq(0,60,0.1)
pa<-c(b=b,B=1/365,m=m,g=g)
library(deSolve)
out<-data.frame(ode(c(S,I,R),time,sir,pa,hmax=0.01))
matplot(time,out[,-1],type="l",lty=1:3,col=1)
legend("right",c("S","I","R"),lty=1:3)
```



# Example 24

Construct an intraguild model composed of two predators ( $L$ ,  $S$ ). Both feed on prey ( $N$ ), the larger predator ( $L$ ) also feeds on the smaller one ( $S$ ). Use Lotka-Volterra predation model with functional response of Type I with capture efficiency ( $a$ ), conversion rate ( $b$ ),  $r = 1.5$  and  $K = 1000$ .

1. Find parameter estimates producing stable dynamic.



$$\frac{dL}{dt} = a_{N1}b_{N1}LN + a_Sb_SLS - m_L L$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = a_{N2}b_{N2}SN - a_SLS - m_S S$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = Nr\left(1 - \frac{N}{K}\right) - a_{N1}LN - a_{N2}SN$$

Parameter estimates should meet the following conditions:

- $L$  is by half less effective in prey capture of  $N$  than of  $S$  ( $a_{N1} = 0.02$ )
- $S$  is twice more effective in prey capture of  $N$  than  $L$
- $N$  is by half less nutritious for  $L$  than for  $S$  ( $b_{N1} = 0.03$ )
- $S$  is twice more nutritious for  $L$  than  $N$  is
- mortality of  $L$  and  $S$  is identical ( $m_S = m_L = 0.1$ )
- density of  $N$  is twice higher than that of  $S$  and that is twice higher than of  $L$  ( $L_0 = 20$ )



```

igp<-function(t,y,param){
L<-y[1]
S<-y[2]
N<-y[3]
with(as.list(param),{
dL.dt<-an1*bn1*L*N+as*bs*L*S-m1*L
dS.dt<-an2*bn2*S*N-as*L*S-ms*S
dN.dt<-r*N*(1-N/K)-an1*L*N-an2*S*N
return(list(c(dL.dt,dS.dt,dN.dt))))}

```

```

L<-20;S<-40;N<-80
param<-c(an1=0.02,bn1=0.03,as=0.01,bs=0.06,m1=0.1,
an2=0.04,bn2=0.06,ms=0.1,r=1.5,K=1000)
time<-seq(0,30,0.1)
library(deSolve)
out<-data.frame(ode(c(L,S,N),time,igp,param))
matplot(time,out[,-1],type="l",lty=1:3,col=1)
legend("right",c("L","S","N"),lty=1:3)

```