

Ecological community: linking structure to dynamics

KONDOH Michio

Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University

Ecological community is a set of species that coexist in the same habitat. A community can be viewed as a network of many species that are linked each other by interspecific interactions. Community theory predicts that the structure of community network can influence population and community dynamics and therefore holds a key to understanding species coexistence and ecological stability. However, the exact effect of interspecific interactions and community network structure to the higher scale dynamics is still poorly understood, mostly due to the complex and non-static nature of ecological systems which makes either empirical test and mathematical modelling not straightforward. In this session, Dr. KAWATSU Kazutaka (Tohoku Univ.), Dr. YAMAMICHI Masato (Univ. of Tokyo) and myself would try to point out what has been overlooked in the past community structure-dynamics studies and give possible direction for better understanding of ecological systems.