

The Publication Challenge

Richard B. Primack, Biological Conservation

- Publishing in international, peer-reviewed journals is important for your research and your career.
- However, acceptance rates at leading journals are low. Acceptance rate is about 20% overall at BC.
- How can you improve your possibility of acceptance?



Common Reasons for Rejection

- Not of interest to readers of *Biological Conservation*
– (wrong journal)
- Not novel enough – (just another example)
- Small sample size (not enough samples or years)
- Weak presentation – especially writing, but also statistics and figures (unclear)
- Poor literature review (out of date)

Improving Your Odds

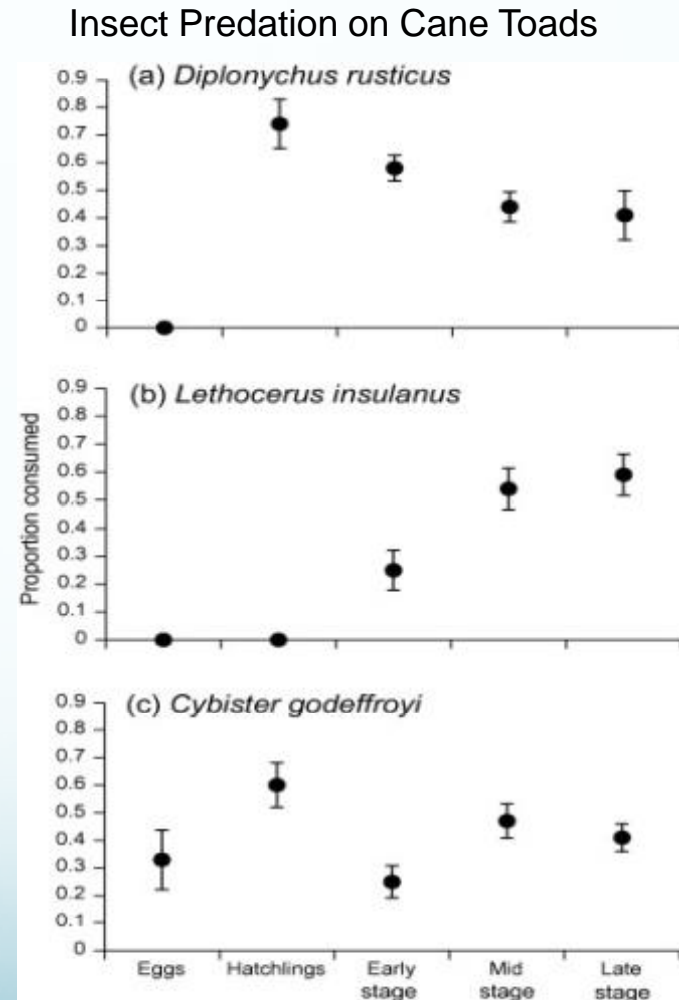
- Good Science:
 - Design your study well. If possible, replicate samples and years. Get advice before you start.
 - Use the correct statistical analyses; get advice if necessary.
 - Present reasonable conclusions.



Credit: Richard Primack

Good Presentation

- Write clearly, using good grammar.
- Write a good cover letter and abstract that convey your key points.
- Design clear figures that tell your story.
- Follow the journal's guide to authors; use recent issues of the journal as guides for style.



Credit: Figure from Cabrera-Guzmán et al. 2012. *Biological Conservation*

Getting Good Advice

- Include co-authors who will improve the research and paper.
- Contact journal editor to make sure paper is a good fit.
- Ask colleagues to review the paper.
- Get help from English-speakers (sometimes you may need to pay for help)
- Don't get discouraged!



Credit: Wayne MacPhail