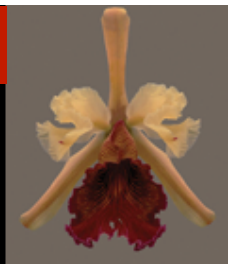

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The Species-Area-Energy Relationship in Orchids

It is assumed that species richness increases with area (the species-area relationship) , with the energy available to an assemblage (the species-energy relationship) and towards the equator. To compare relative importance of these factors, we collected data about species richness of orchids from the whole world and calculated the mean Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) as a measure of energy availability. We show that latitude plays a much more important role than energy available. We also pinpoint the outliers appearing in the relationships and give explanations for their abnormal species richness.