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Edge paradox : forest edges as a threat and an opportunity for biodiversity and ecosystem services

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Edge paradox :

forest edges as a threat or an opportunity for biodiversity and ecosystem services



nature

Creation of forest edges has a global impact on forest vertebrates

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Forest edges influence more than half of the world's forests and contribute to worldwide declines in biodiversity and ecosystem functions. However, predicting these declines is challenging in heterogeneous fragmented landscapes. Here

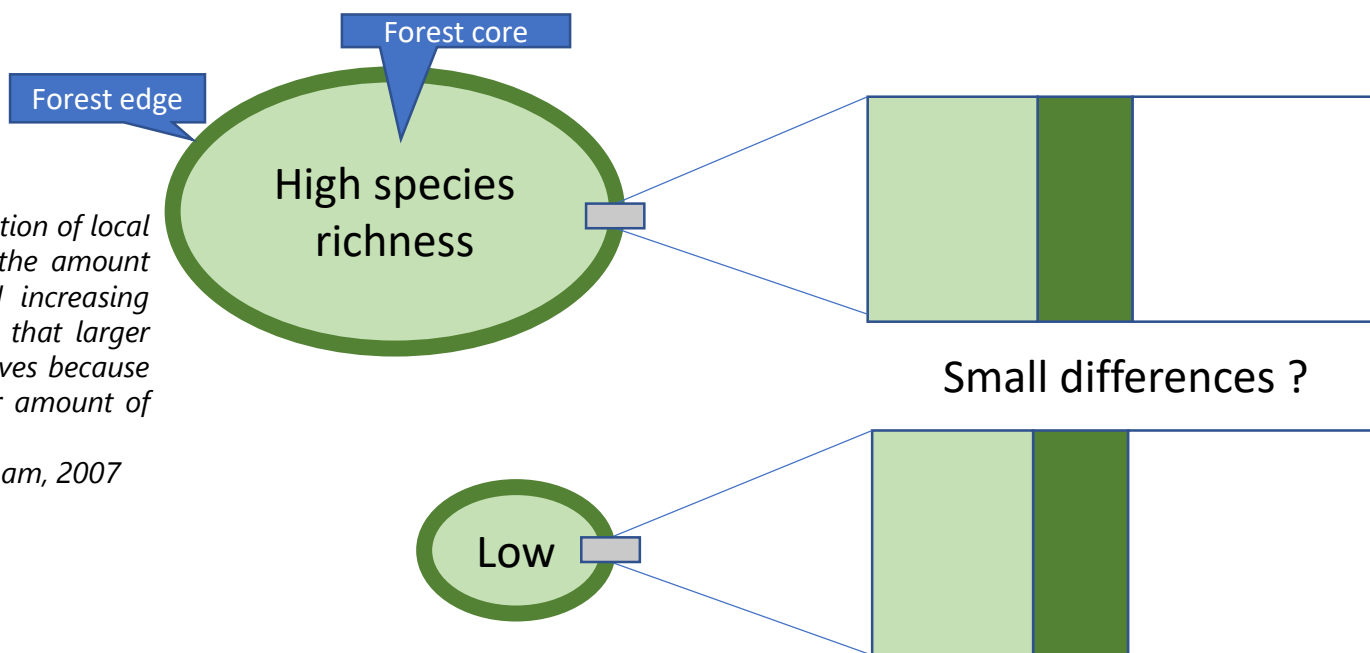
Ecology and Evolution



Forest edges have high conservation value for bird communities in mosaic landscapes

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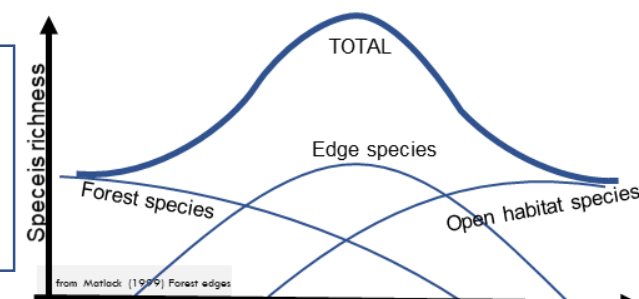
Fragmentation edge effect



Habitat fragmentation causes extinction of local animal populations by decreasing the amount of viable "core" habitat area and increasing edge effects. It is widely accepted that larger fragments make better nature reserves because core-dwelling species have a larger amount of suitable habitat.

Ewers & Didham, 2007

Local edge effect



Matlack & Litvaitis, 1999

Species communities in edges are a mix of forest species, open habitat species and edge associated species.