Is there differential risk of climate-induced, ecologically disruptive mismatches in plant and pollinator phenology in alpine and **lowland** habitats?

The Data

Collection dates of plant and insect specimens in herbaria and entomological museums can indicate changes in phenology over decades. Comparing longterm shifts in collection dates can reveal developing **mismatches**.⁴



Represented Range

- Northern California
- Lowland: 0-1500m
- Alpine: 2700-3200+ m
- Minimum alpine elevation limits vary by latitude



Plant Taxa:

- **154 years**
- 1302 records
- 26 taxa of 7 genera
- short flowering periods
- conspicuous flowers
- abundant records

Analyses: Modeling Changes in Phenology

- → Random-intercept, mixed-effect models explain how phenology of each taxon varies over time
- → Magnitude and direction of resulting slope values characterize **trends in** changing phenology

Field Work

- → Plant models used to **predict peak flowering** dates of selected populations of each taxon (with restrictions due to fire and COVID-19)
- → Populations were **visited** and open flowers quantified on given dates
- → Pollinators were **collected or photographed**

Acknowledgements & References

Ivey; committee members Drs. Don Miller, Mandy Banet, and Robin Donatello for their guidance and expertise; to the California Native Plant Society and Garden Club of America, he funders of this project; Dr. Kristina Schierenbeck for providing the original inspiration for the work; CSU Chico, the College of Natural Sciences, and the Department of Biological Sciences for support of continued during ongoing public health challenges; Amanda Howey for aid in data collection; Dr. Justen Whittall for aiding with PDAP, Rob Irwin and Rob Schlissing for providing entomological insights, the UC eum of Entomology for aid in pollinator identification; my labmates for their valued perspective; and my family for volunteering as field assistants. I would also like to acknowledge the Mechoopda land CSU Chico is located, and the many tribes of Northern California who have stewarded the native land, flora, and fauna of California for centuries B. N. Danforth, A. N. Lakso, and R. Winfree. 2013. Biodiversity ensures plant–pollinator phenological synchrony against climate change. Ecology Letters 16:1331–1338. and A. E. Weis. 2007. Rapid evolution of flowering time by an annual plant in response to a climate fluctuation. PNAS 104:1278–1282 IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp

"phenology" is the timing of life history events in organisms



Pollinator Taxa:

- **117** years
- 3283 records
- 7 Genera
- Observed or documented relationships to the plants selected for study



4. Primack, D., C. Imbres, R. B. Primack, A. J. Miller-Rushing, and P. D. Tredici. 2004. Herbarium specimens demonstrate earlier flowering times in response to warming in Boston. American Journal of Botany 91:1260–1264.

Impacts

Understanding how important interactions between plants and pollinators may be changing in climate-sensitive habitats such as California's alpine may aid climate-related conservation work impacting both groups. Similar studies of such interactions would benefit from an increase in alpine collection records, which limited the scope and power of these comparisons.

Results

Phenological shifts of important pollinators are different than plants in both alpine and lowland habitats. The magnitude and direction of differences in collection date trends (and therefore phenology) vary among individual plantpollinator partners. Similarly, ecological implications differ in specialist and generalist relationships, as the availability of alternate partners may vary.



plant-pollinator interactions depend on phenological alignment¹

changes in climatic cues may advance or delay phenology²

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alpine habitats are especially sensitive to changes in climate³