

Biodiversity and Our Future Healing Mother Earth

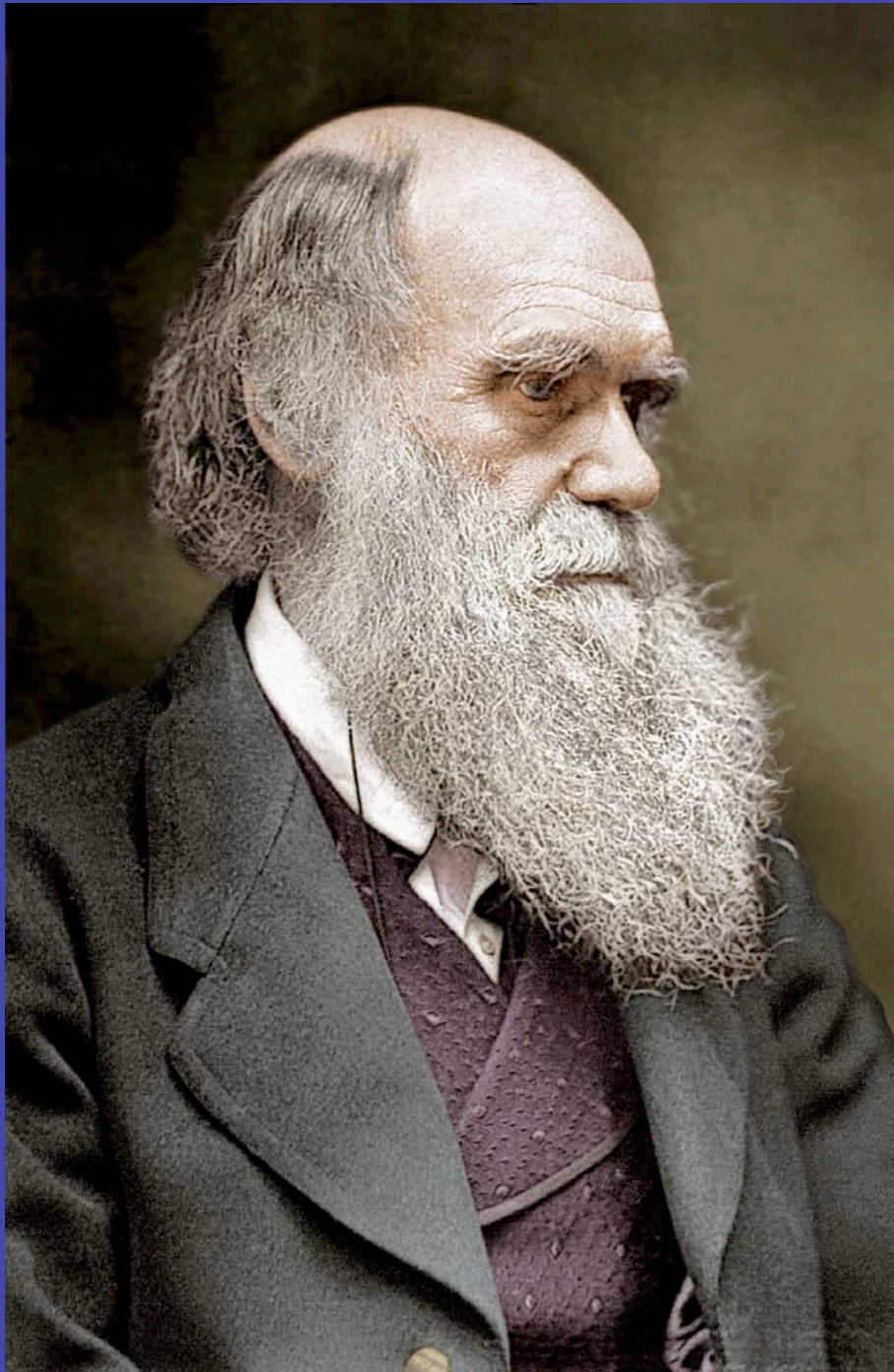
a benefit lecture for Canopy

E.O. Wilson

Sponsors



Darwin age 65 in 1874



© The Natural History Museum London

Dr. E. O. Wilson, Canopy benefit lecture, 2009

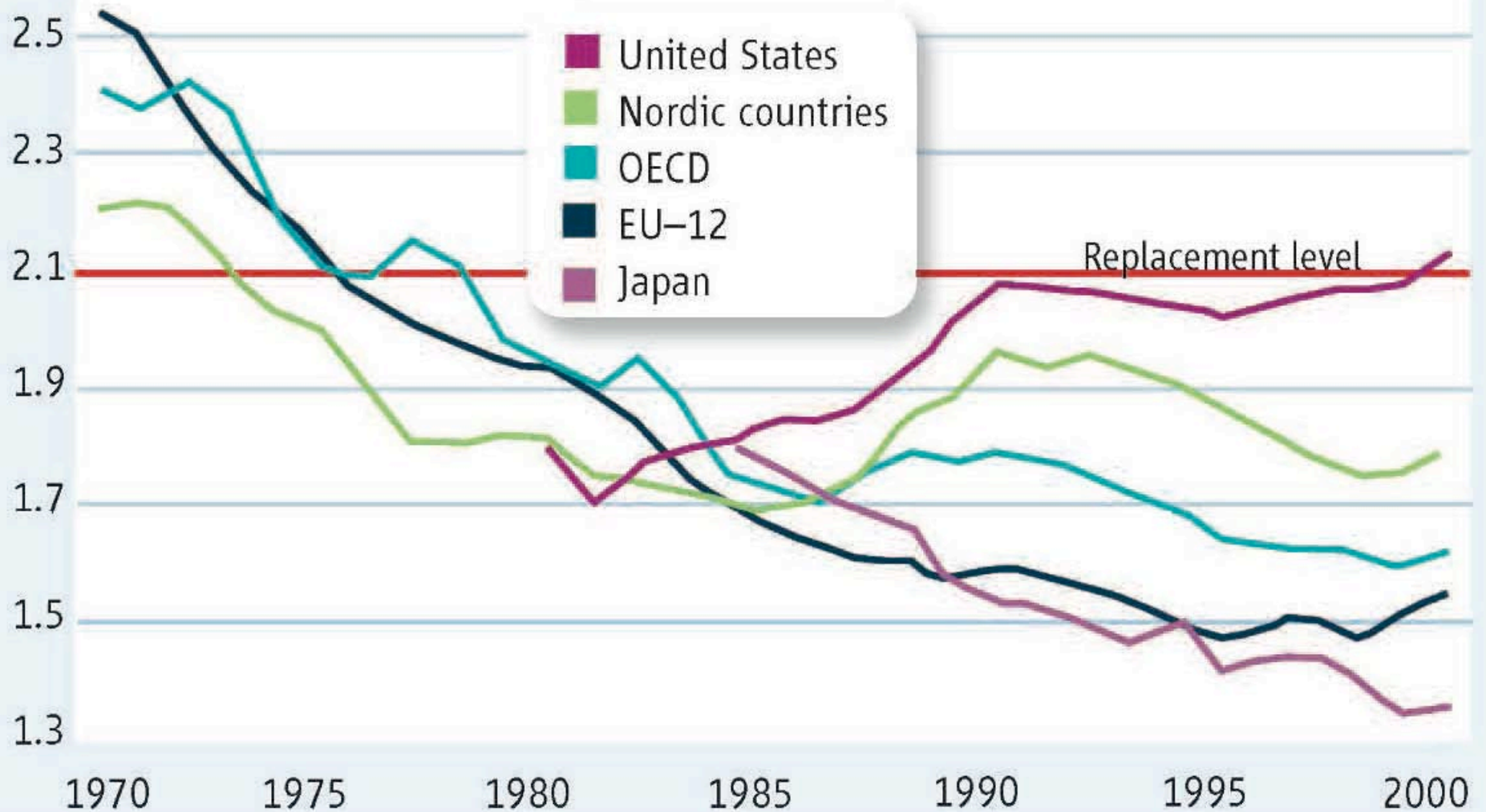
Journal of Researches into the Natural
History and Geology of the Countries
visited during the Voyage of H.M.S. *Beagle*
Round the World (1845)

On the Origin of Species (1859)

The Descent of Man; and Selection in
Relation to Sex (1871)

The Expression of the Emotions in Man and
Animals (1872)

Trends in Total Fertility Rates

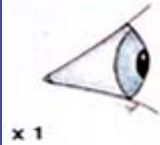


(from Michael Balter, *Science* 312, 1897, 2006)



Magnification

Species



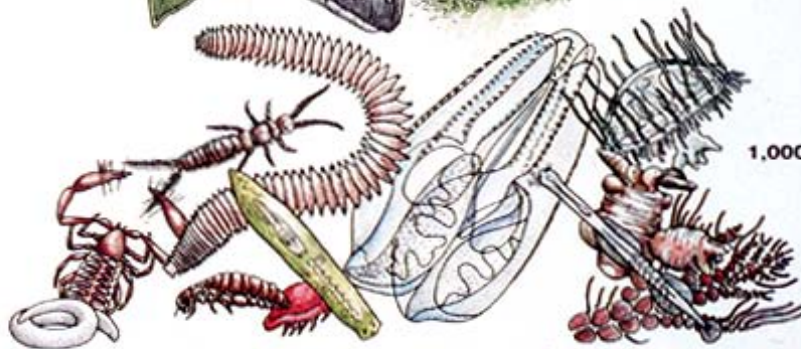
x 1

100–200



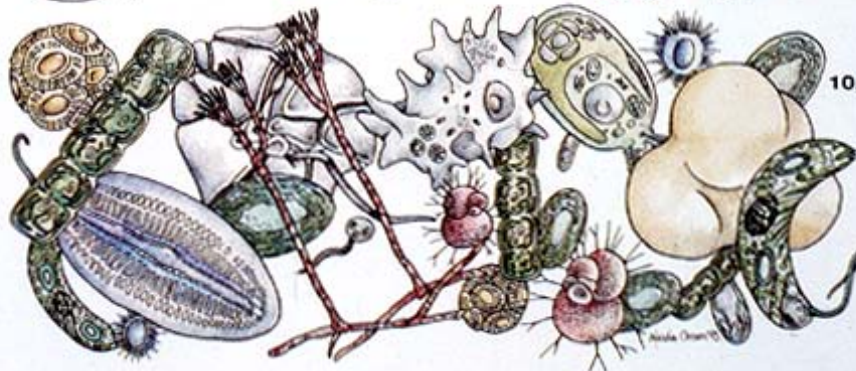
x 50

1,000–5,000



x100 – 500

10,000

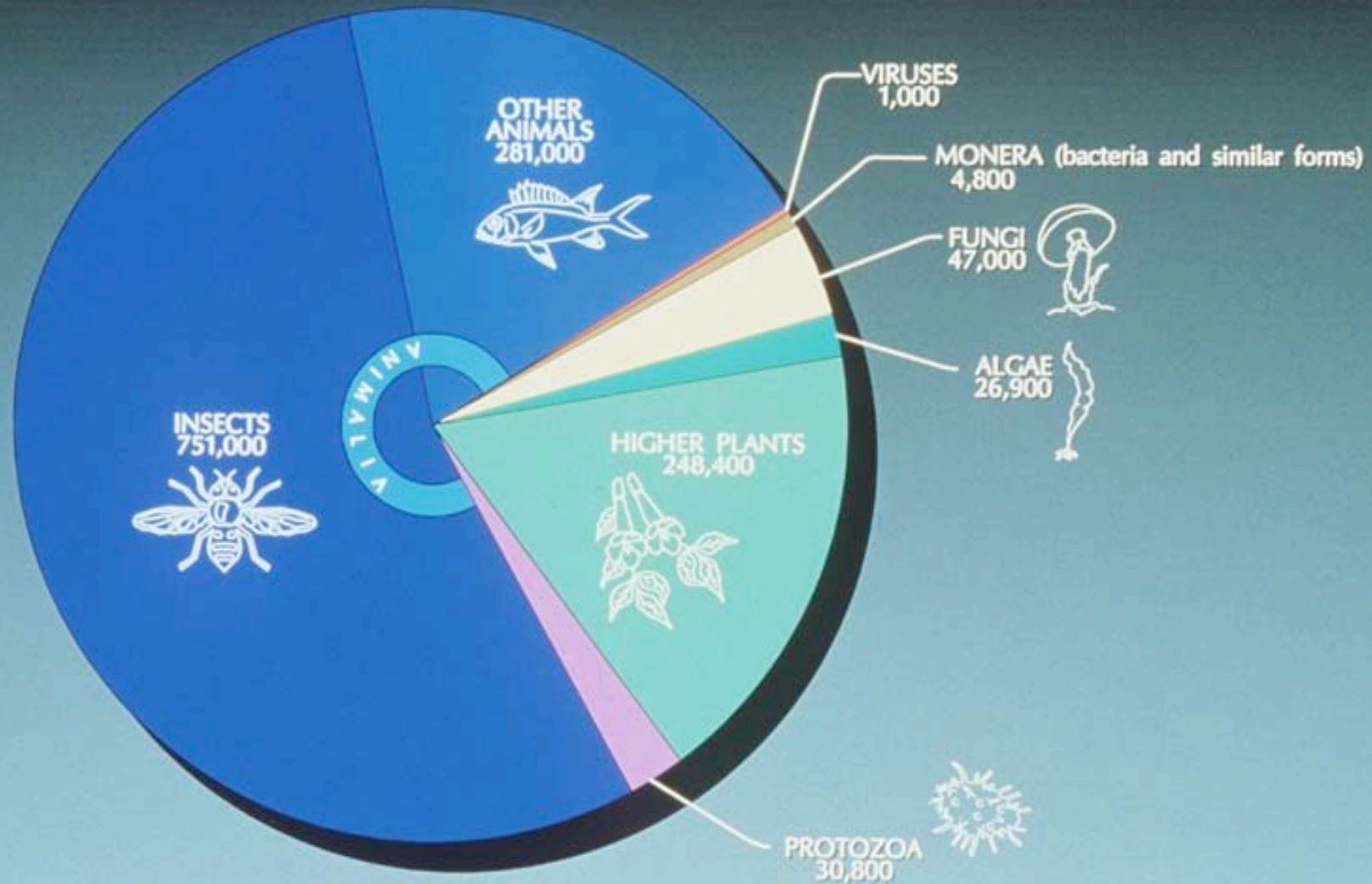


Descending dimensions of biodiversity

(from Andrew Beattie,
*Australia's
Biodiversity*, 1995)

All Organisms: Total Species

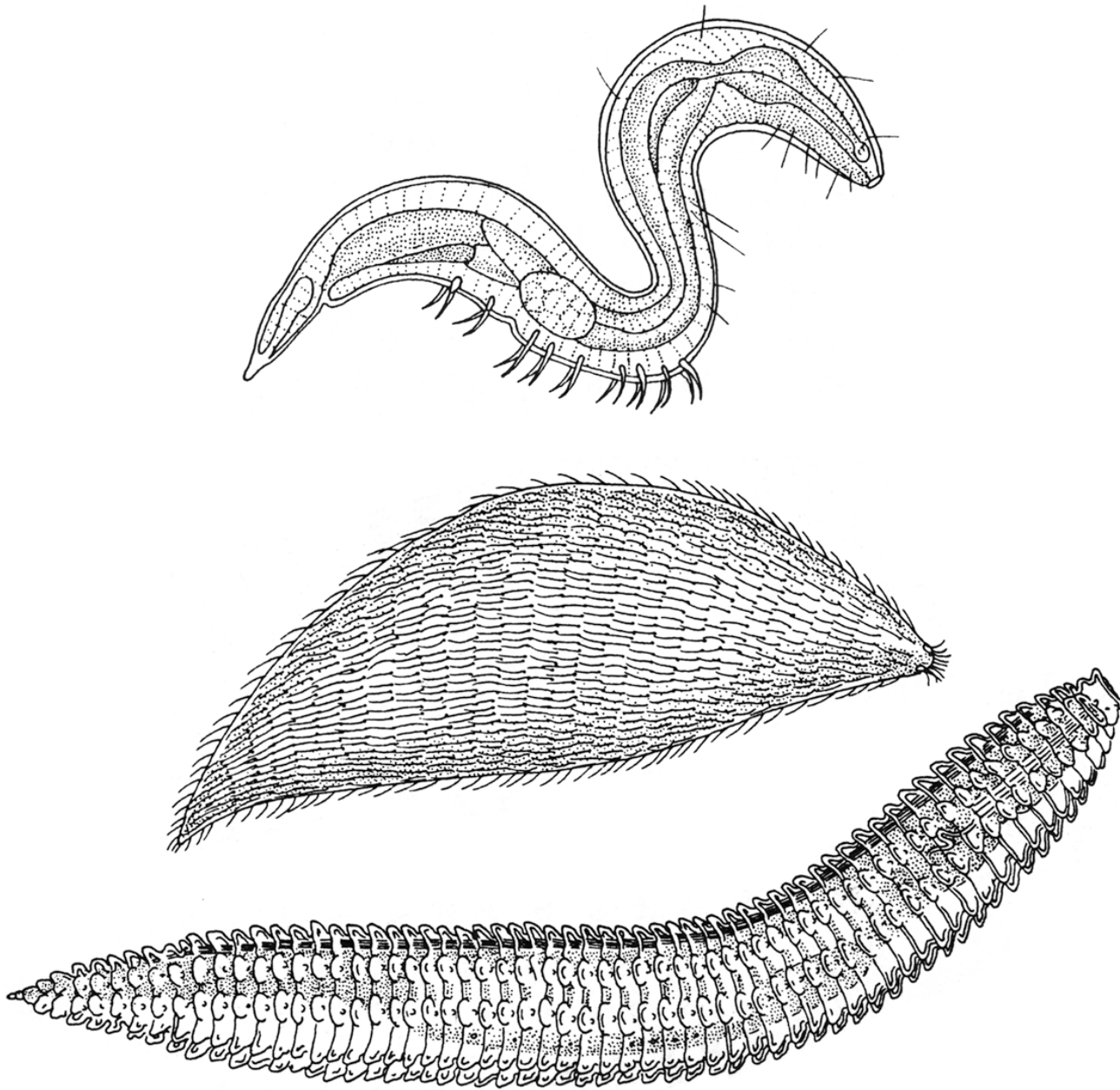
1,390,900





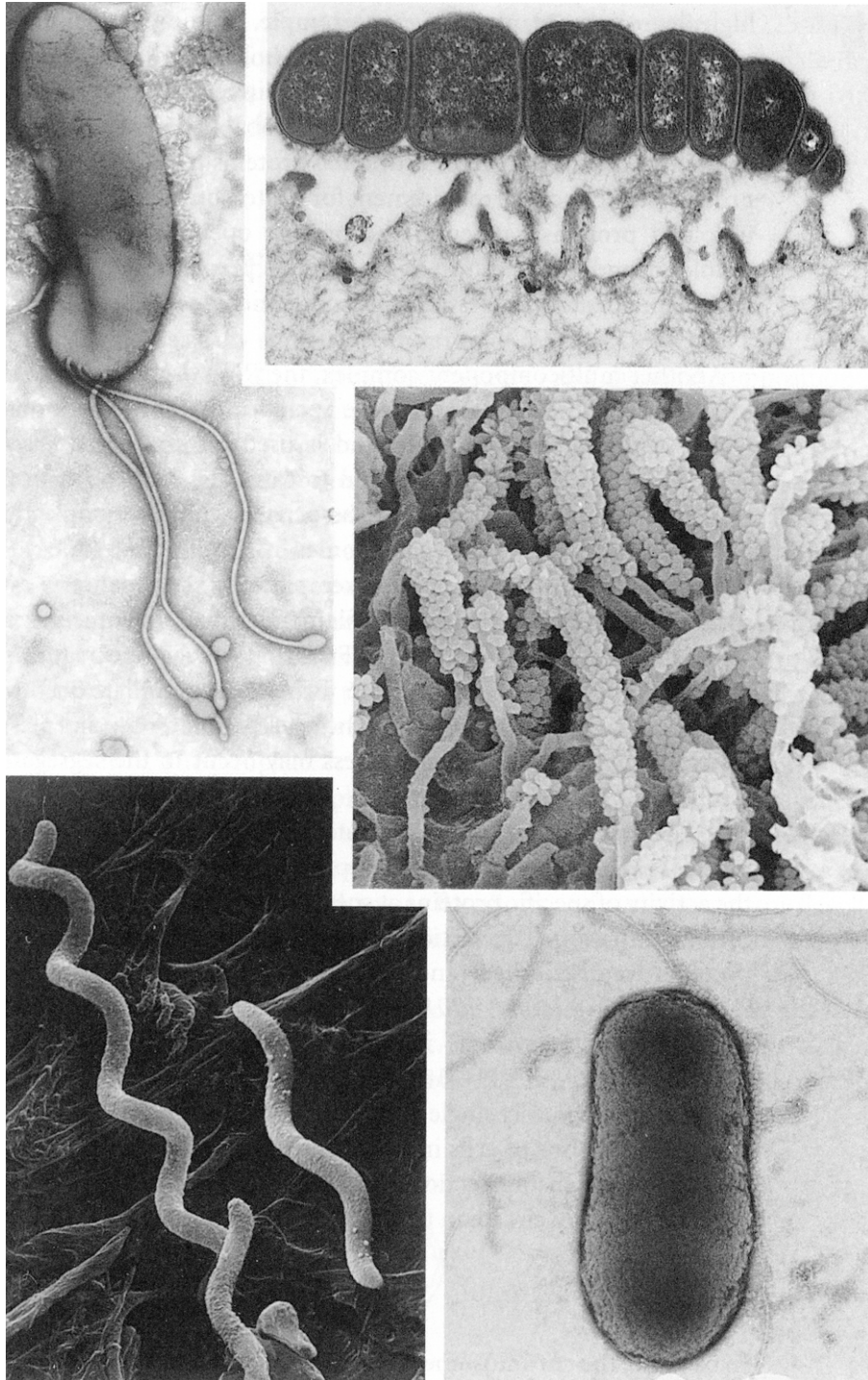
The Species-Scape

(from Quentin Wheeler, based on data from E. O. Wilson)



Three species
of nematodes
(roundworms),
specialized
variously for
a free-living
or parasitic
existence.

(from Richard C.
Brusca and
Gary J. Brusca,
Invertebrates,
Sunderland, MA:
Sinauer Associates,
Inc., 1990, p. 350)



A medley of bacteria.
The spiral species at
bottom left is a free-
living aquatic species.
The rest are inhabitants
of various parts of the
human alimentary tract;
at bottom right is
Escherichia coli, common
in polluted water and a
key species in molecular
biology research.

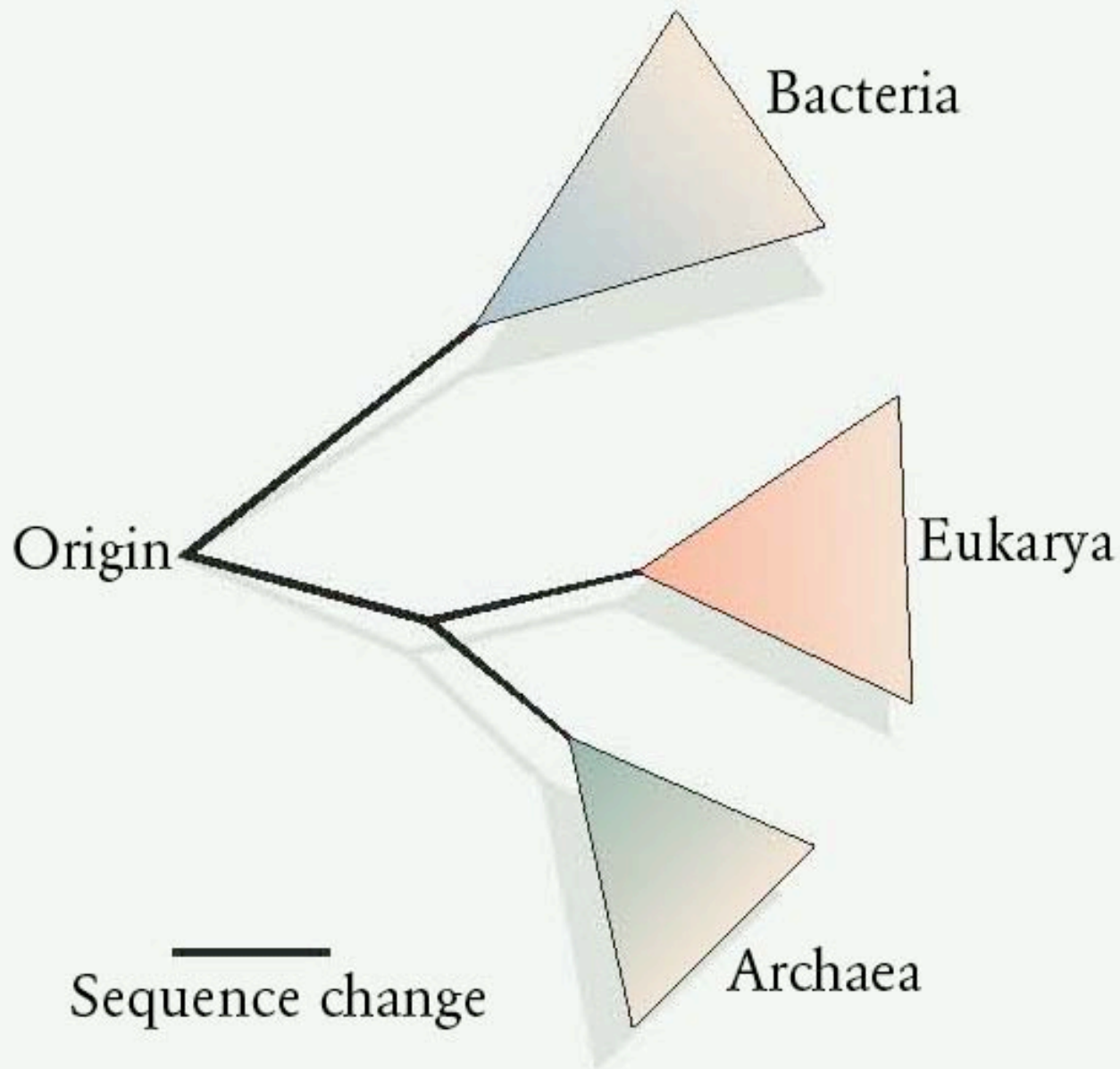
(from Paul Singleton, *Bacteria in
Biology, Biotechnology and
Medicine*, 6th ed., Hoboken, NJ:
John Wiley & Sons, 2004, p. 12)



Viruses: *Gene weavers of life*

(from *Garry Hamilton, Nature 441, 683, 2006*)

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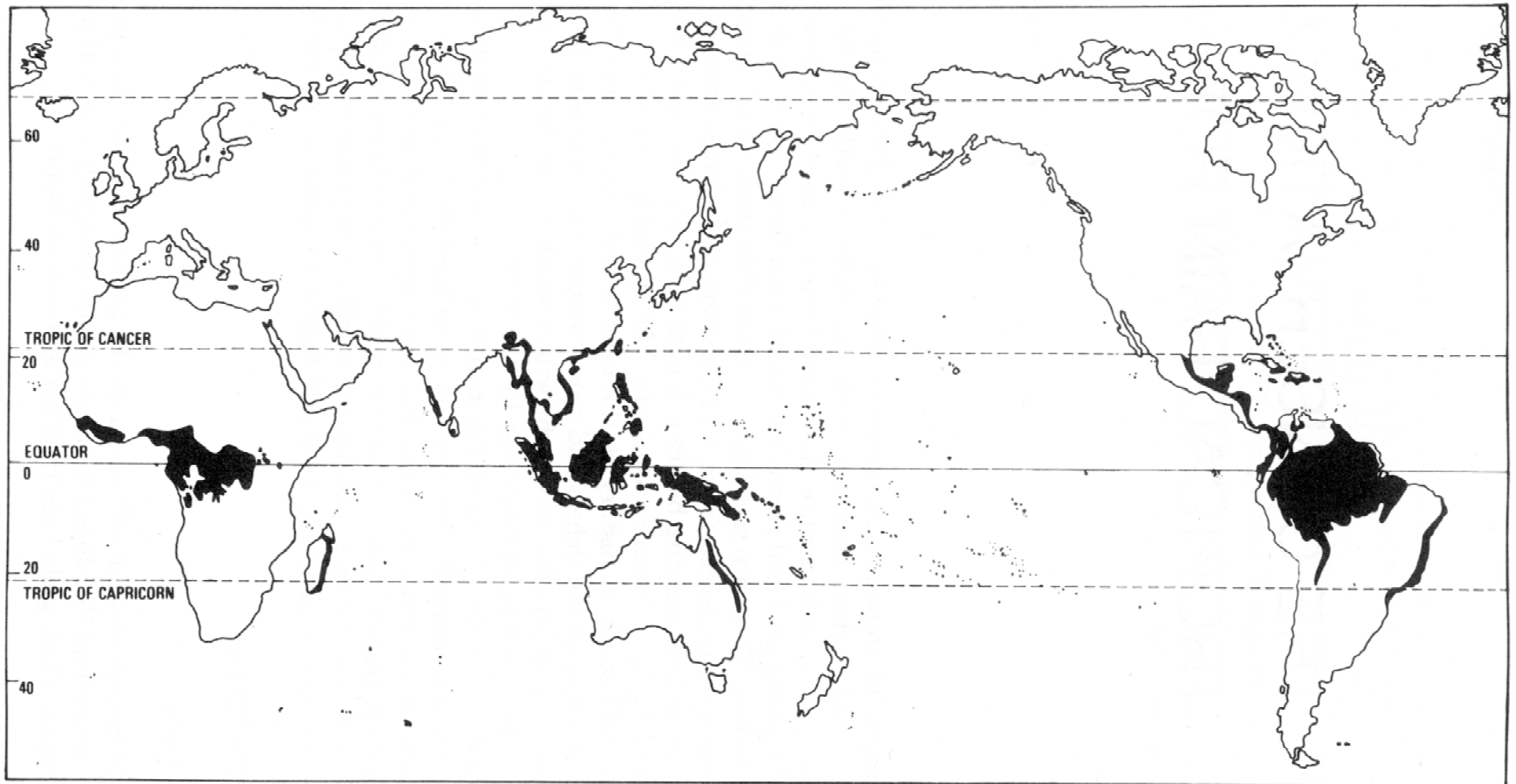
Comparisons
of ribosomal
RNA
sequences
reveal a
three-domains
tree of life,
rendering the
term
'prokaryote'
obsolete

(from Norman R.
Pace, *Nature* 441,
289, 2006)

An electron micrograph of approximately two five thousandth of the DNA from a single human cell. The cell was in the interphase between cell divisions. It was treated to free the nucleus, from which most of the material other than the DNA was then extracted. The remaining DNA was spread on the surface of water and photographed at high magnification.

(from McCready et al., Electron-microscopy of nuclear DNA from human cells, *J. Cell Sci.* 39, 53-62, 1979 in George Snell, *Search for a Rational Ethic*, 1988)





Tropical rainforests

(from T. C. Whitmore in M. E. Soulé and B. A. Wilcox, eds.,
Conservation Biology, Sinauer Associates, 1978, p. 304)



Bornean rainforest, Indonesia

(Scott Zens is in the tree;

photo by Tim Laman)



Barro Colorado Island, Panama

Chrislie Rich,
tropical biologist
exploring
the canopy

(Explorers's Journal,
Winter 2006/2007, p. 9)

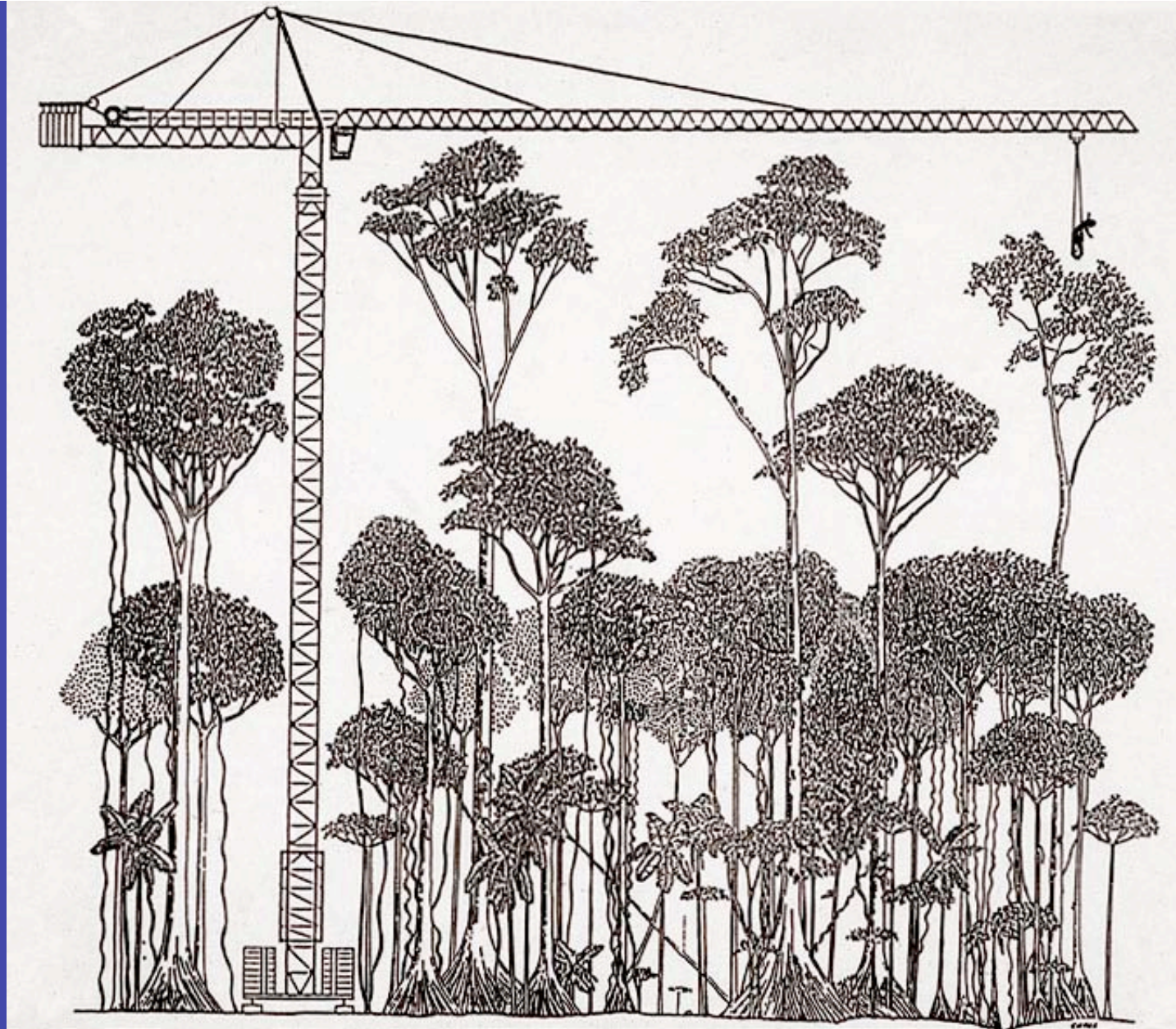
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Tree canopy

Peruvian rainforest

(photo by Terry Erwin)



Canopy research crane, STRI, Panama

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Crane above canopy in Panama

Dr. E. O. Wilson, Canopy benefit lecture, 2009



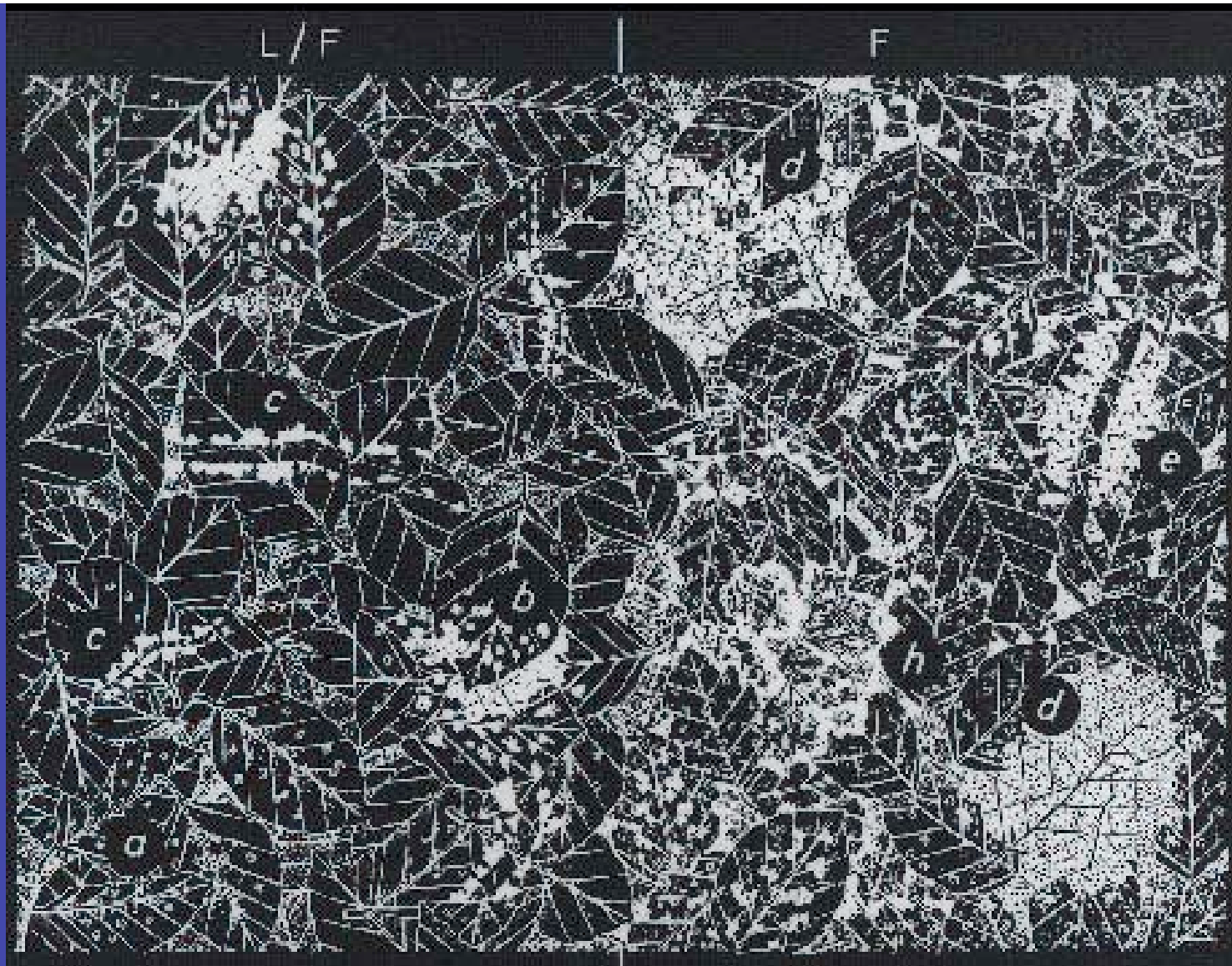
Canopy crane gondola, Panama

Close-up of canopy
from gondola
suspended from
crane in Panama.

Geoffrey Parker (left),
Alan P. Smith (right), in
the fall of 1990, just a
little while after the
crane was installed.

Photo: Carl Hansen, STRI





Leaf litter seen from above

German temperate forest (from G. Eisenbeis and W. Wichard,
An Atlas on the Biology of Soil Arthropods, 1987)

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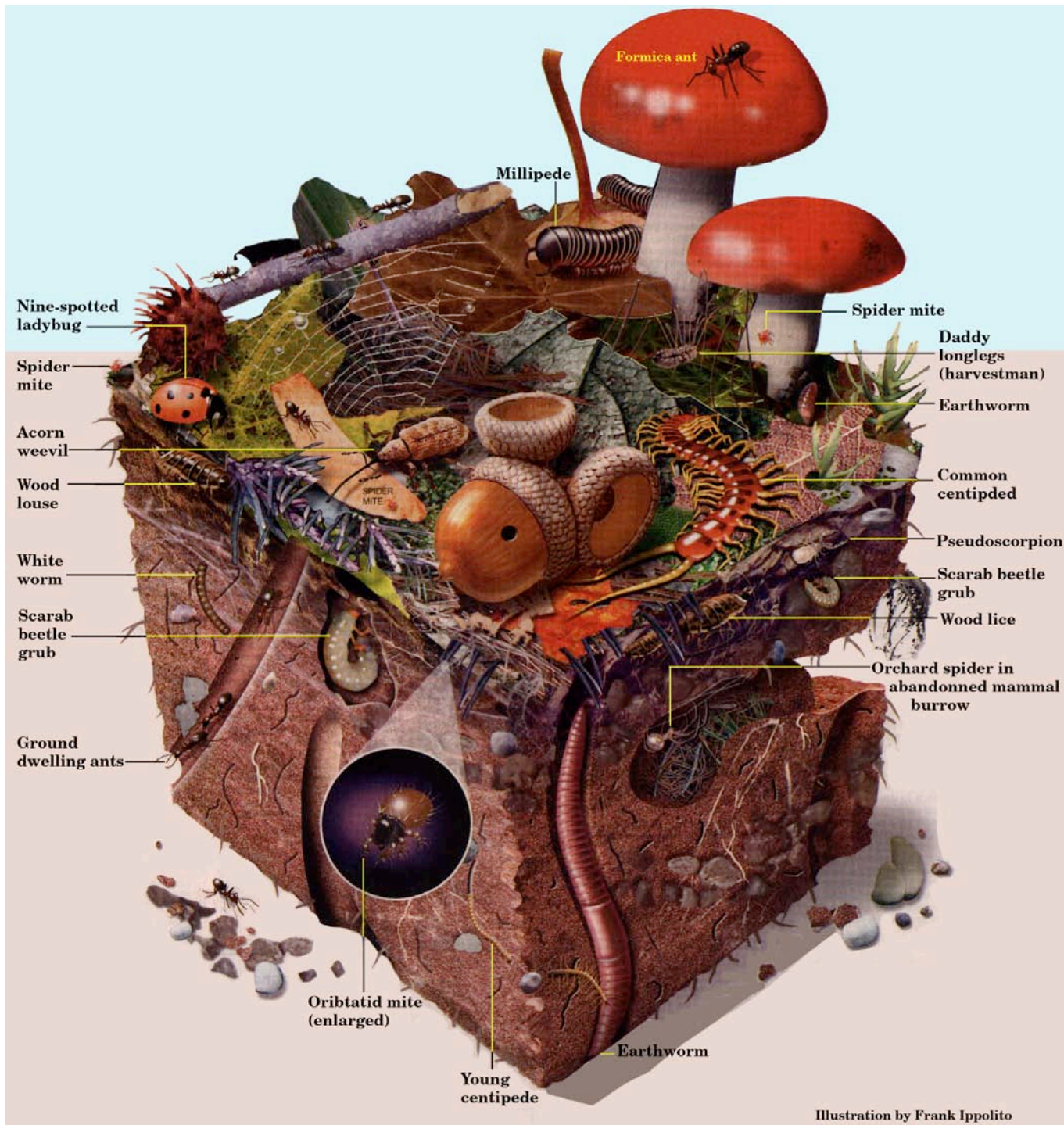


Illustration by Frank Ippolito

Soil from Central Park, New York City

Illustration by Frank Ippolito

(from *The New York Times*, Tuesday, 24 Sept. 2002)

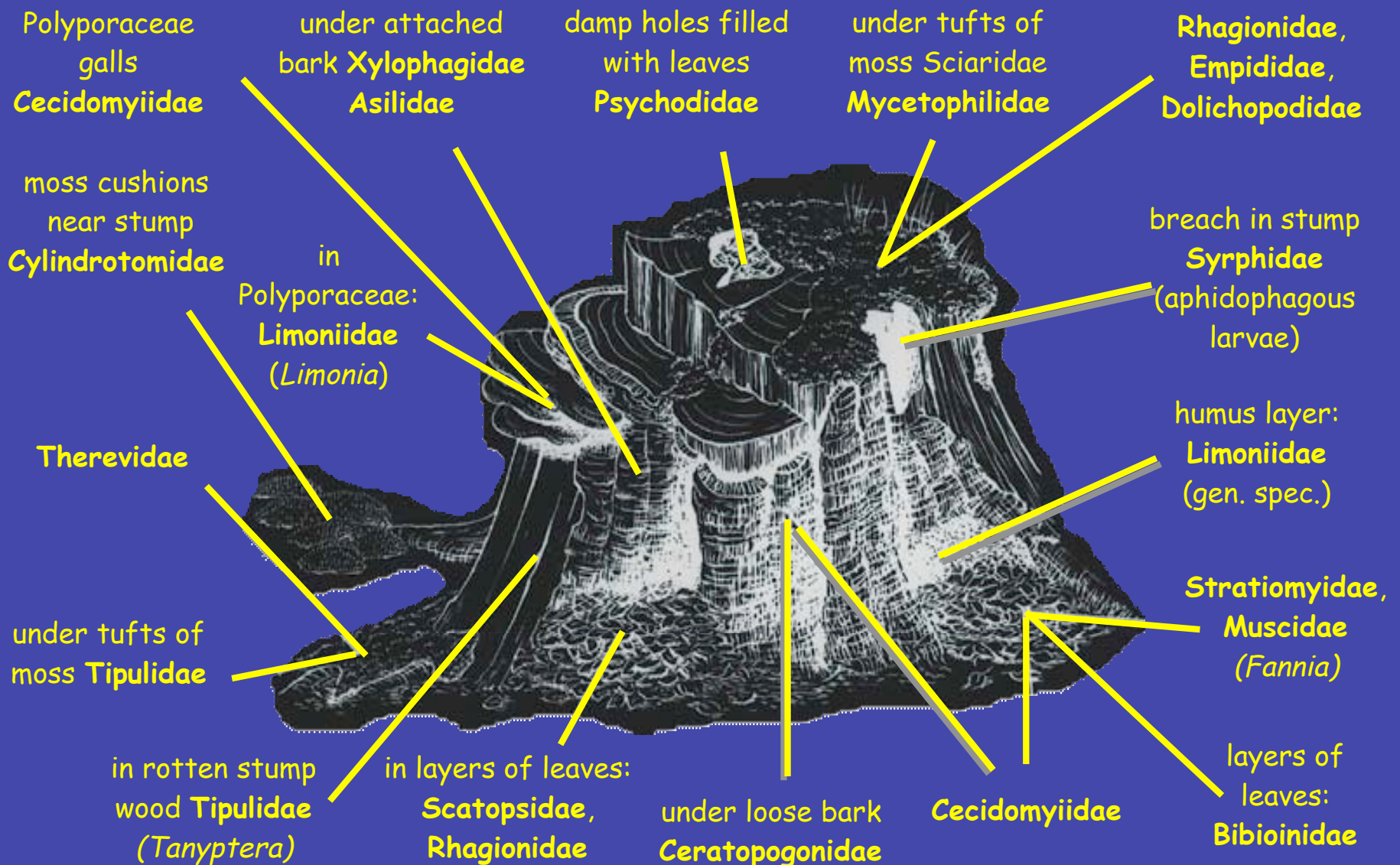
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Barro Colorado Island (BCI)

Diagram of average population on one-tenth of a square meter, based on small quadrats

(from E. C. Williams,
Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences 6, 107, 1941)





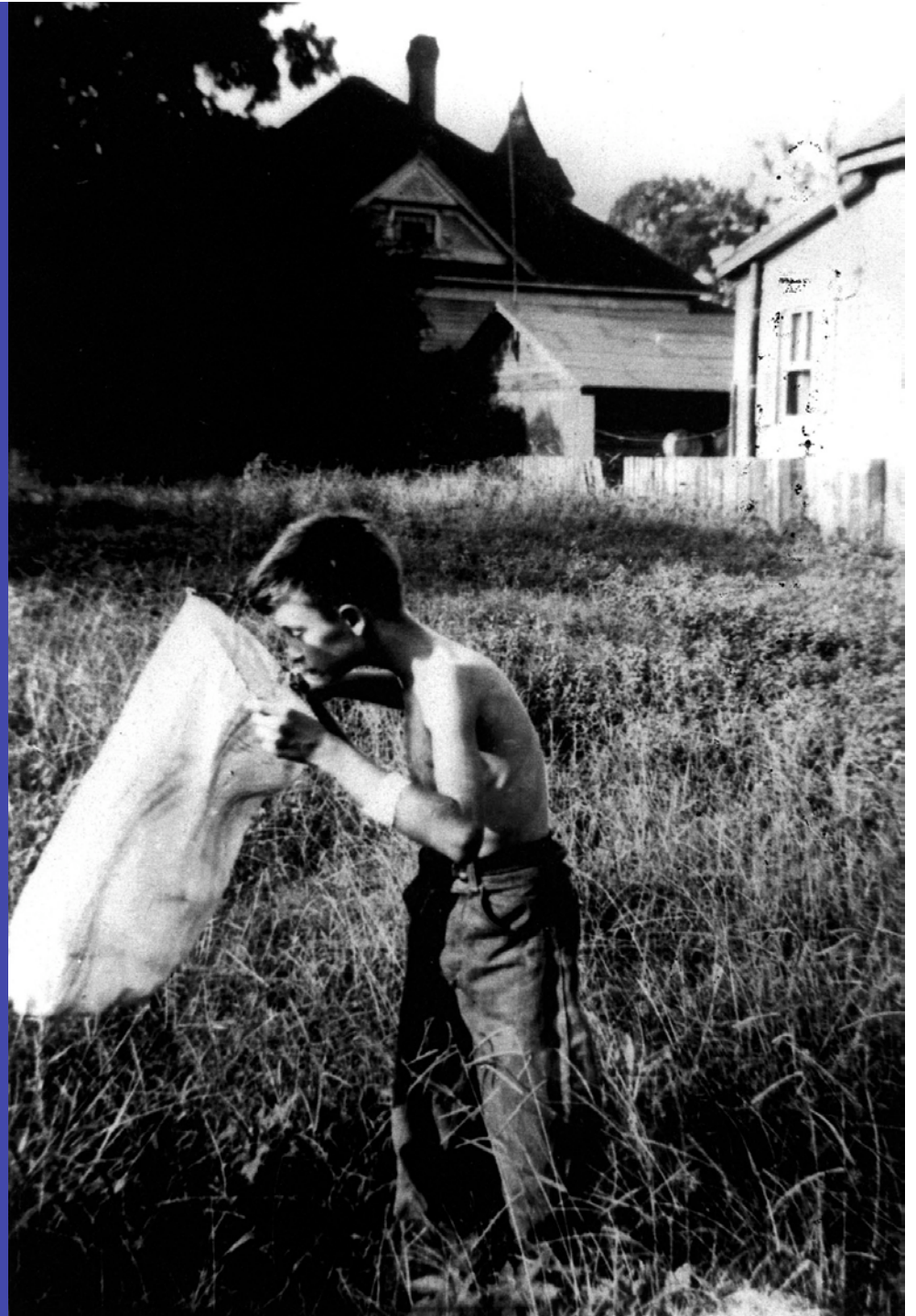
Habitats of dipteran larvae in a 6-8 year-old beech stump

(after Brauns, 1954; from G. Eisenbeis and W. Wichard,

An Atlas on the Biology of Soil Arthropods, 1987)

Dr. E. G. Wilson, Canopy benefit lecture, 2009

Ed Wilson,
13-years-old
in
Alabama





Ed Wilson looking for ants, San José, Costa Rica

Dr. E. O. Wilson, Canopy benefit lecture, 2009



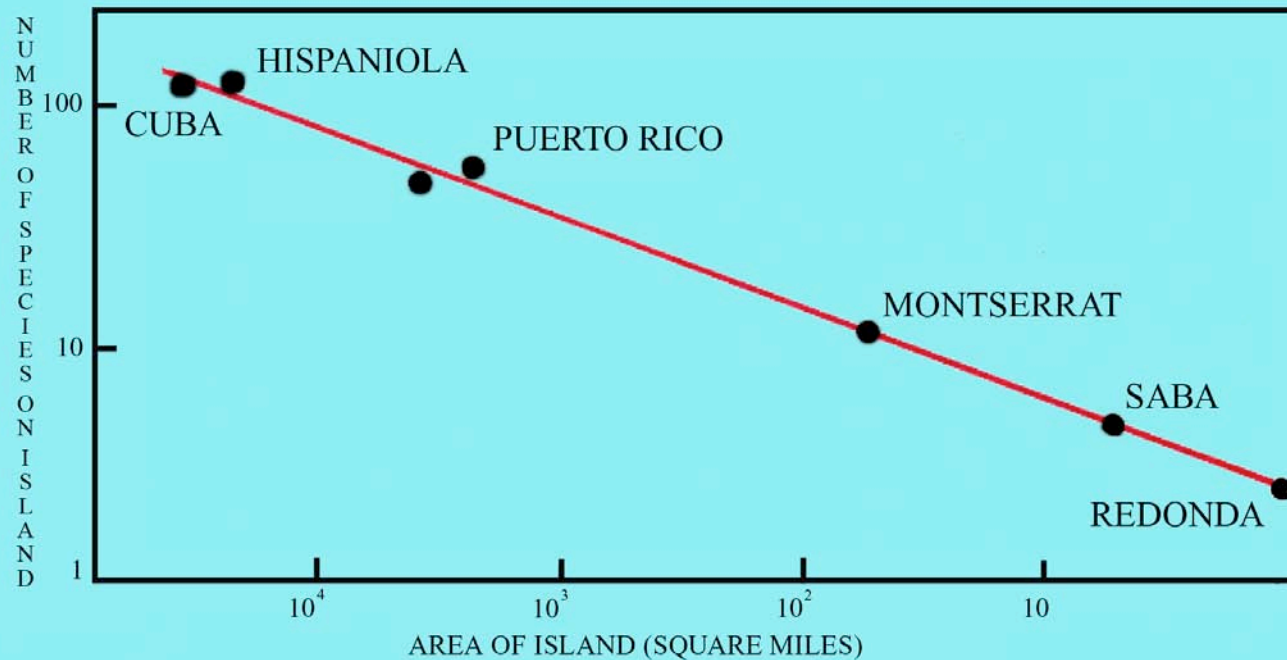
Slash and burn in a Brazilian forest



Points of light reflect the impact of human beings on the earth, as seen at night by satellite

Painting executed by George V. Kelvin (from *Sci. Amer.*, 1989)

Dr. D. O. Wilson, Canopy benefit lecture, 2009

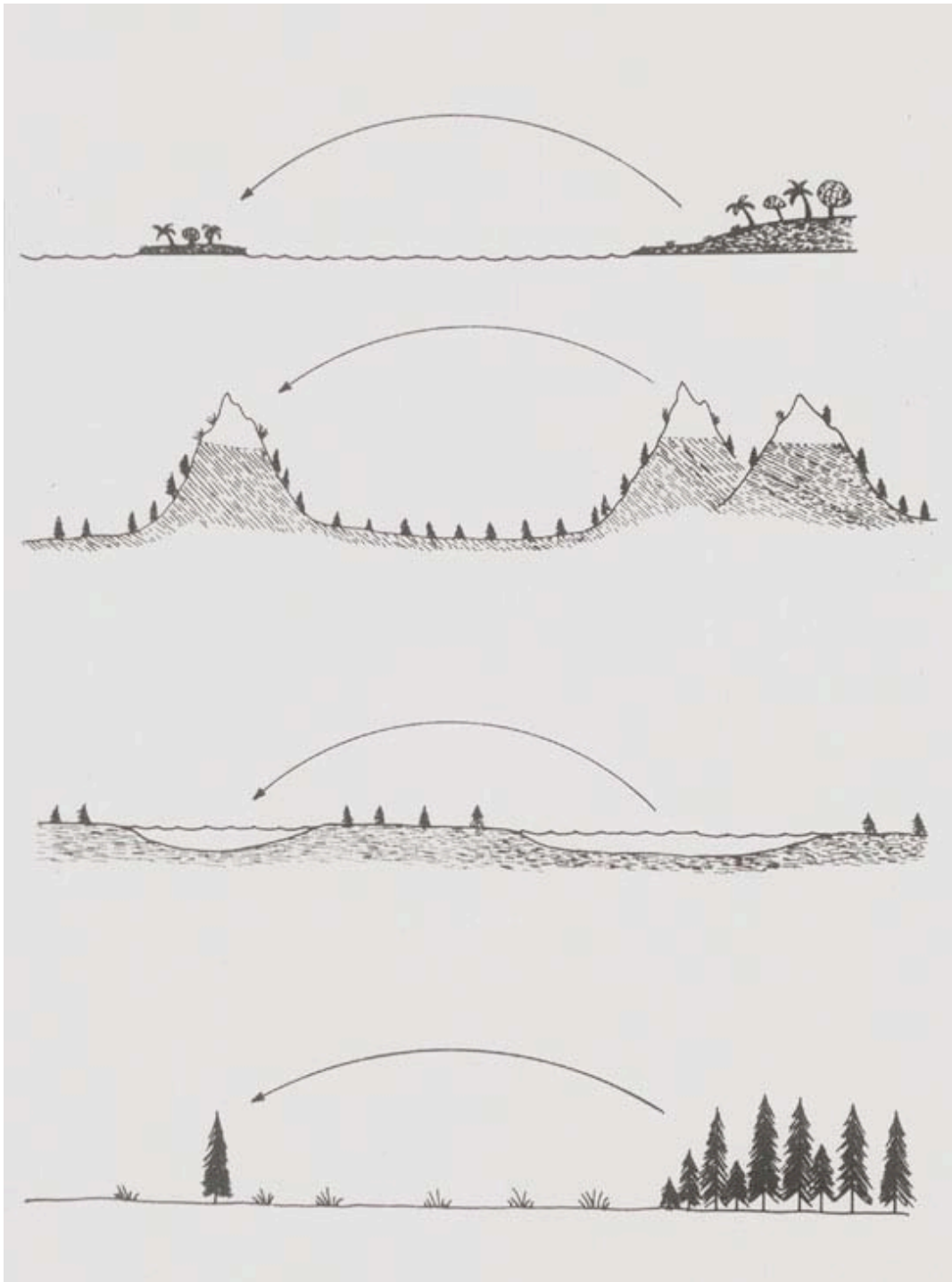


The number of species on an island corresponds to its size.

As a general rule, when the area of an island decreases to one tenth, the number of species on it drops to one-half.

(from E. O. Wilson, *Sci. Amer.*, Sept. 1989)

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"Real" and habitat islands

The Philippines

(Source: *Environmental Science for Social Change*,
Quezon City, P.I., 1999)

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*1920
(60%)*

The Philippines

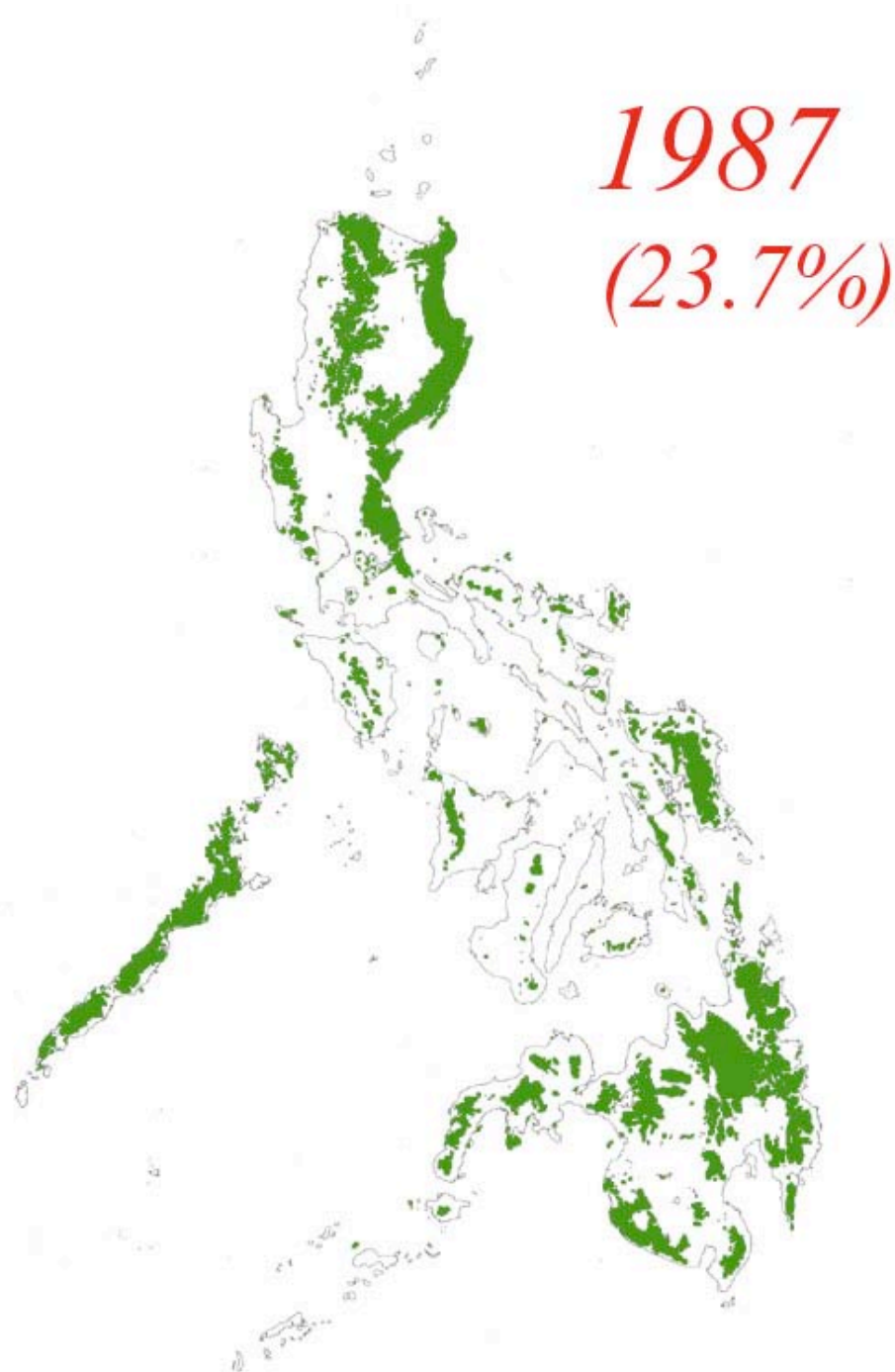
*(Source: Environmental
Science for Social Change,
Quezon City, P.I., 1999)*

1970
(34%)



The Philippines

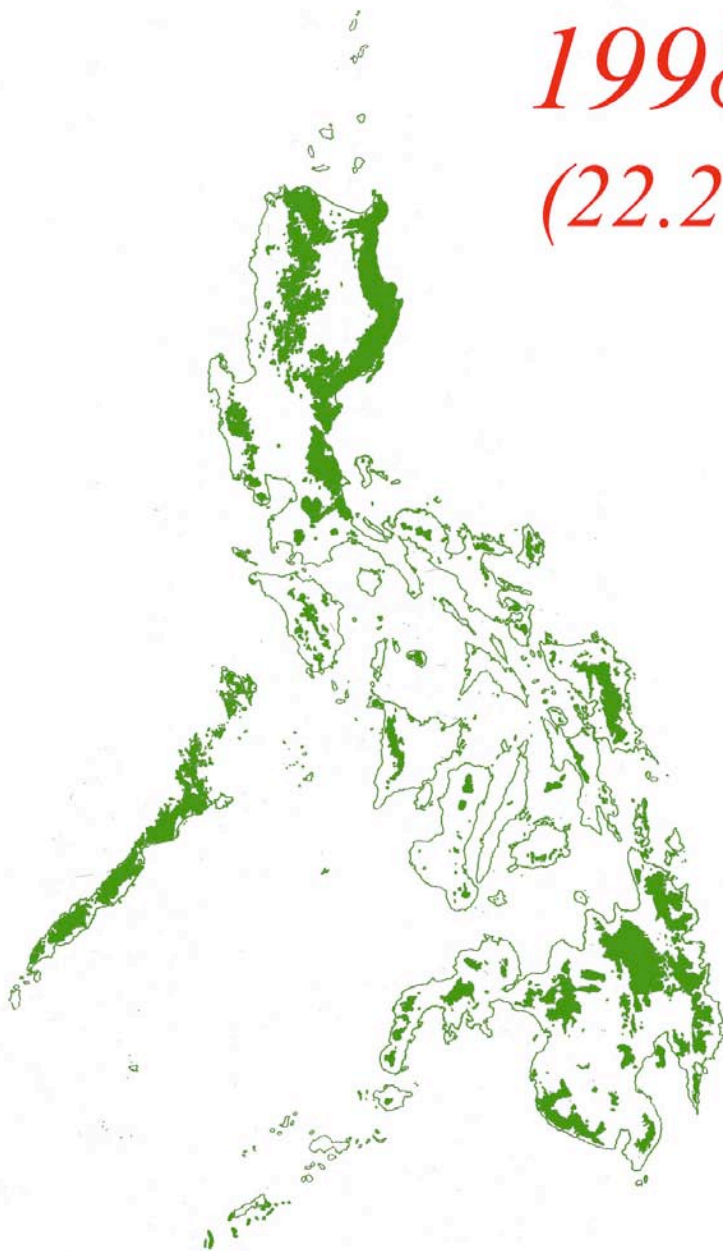
(Source: *Environmental Science for Social Change*,
Quezon City, P.I., 1999)



The Philippines

(Source: *Environmental Science for Social Change*, Quezon City, P.I., 1999)

1998
(22.2%)



The Philippines

*(Source: Environmental
Science for Social Change,
Quezon City, P.I., 1999)*



Darwin's forest

Depletion of the forest area in São Paulo State, Brazil

Between 1500 and 1845, the area of forest covering the state changed only from 82% (20,450 km²) to 80%.

Today less than 10% of São Paulo State is covered by forest.

(adapted from Oedekoven, 1980; in T. Lovejoy, 1985)



The Panamanian golden frog, *Atelopus zeteki*, is nearly extinct in the wild as a combined result of habitat change, illegal collecting, and fungal disease; the species is currently secure in captivity (from Joseph R. Mendelson III et al., *Science* 313, 48, 2006)

Imported Fire Ants

(photographs by Walter Tschinkel)





Brown tree snake

The brown tree snake has eaten into extinction virtually all of Guam's native bird life.

(Source:
America's Least Wanted,
The Nature Conservancy, 1996)

Cerulean paradise-
flycatcher of
Sangihe Island,
Sulawesi, Indonesia

Painting by
Stephen V. Nash
(from
Conservation Biology,
1(1), cover, 1987)

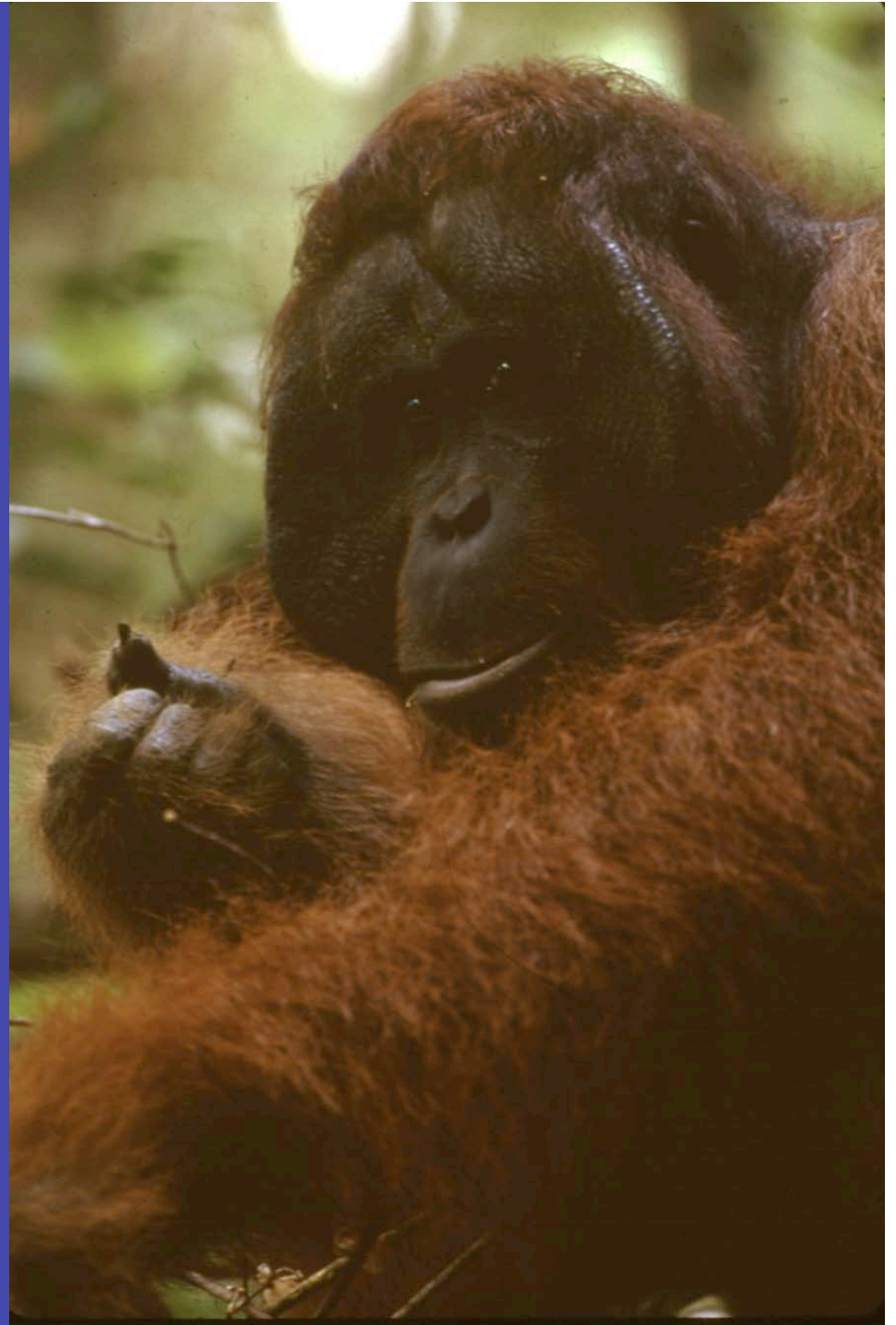


Wild adult male
orangutan

Gunnung Palung
National Park

Borneo, Indonesia

(photo by Tim Laman)





Ivory-billed
woodpecker
North America

Extinct



Imperial woodpecker



The golden toad of Costa Rica: newly extinct

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Oahu tree snail

Achatinella spp.

Honolulu, Hawaii

(from Middleton and
Littschwager,
Witness, 1994)

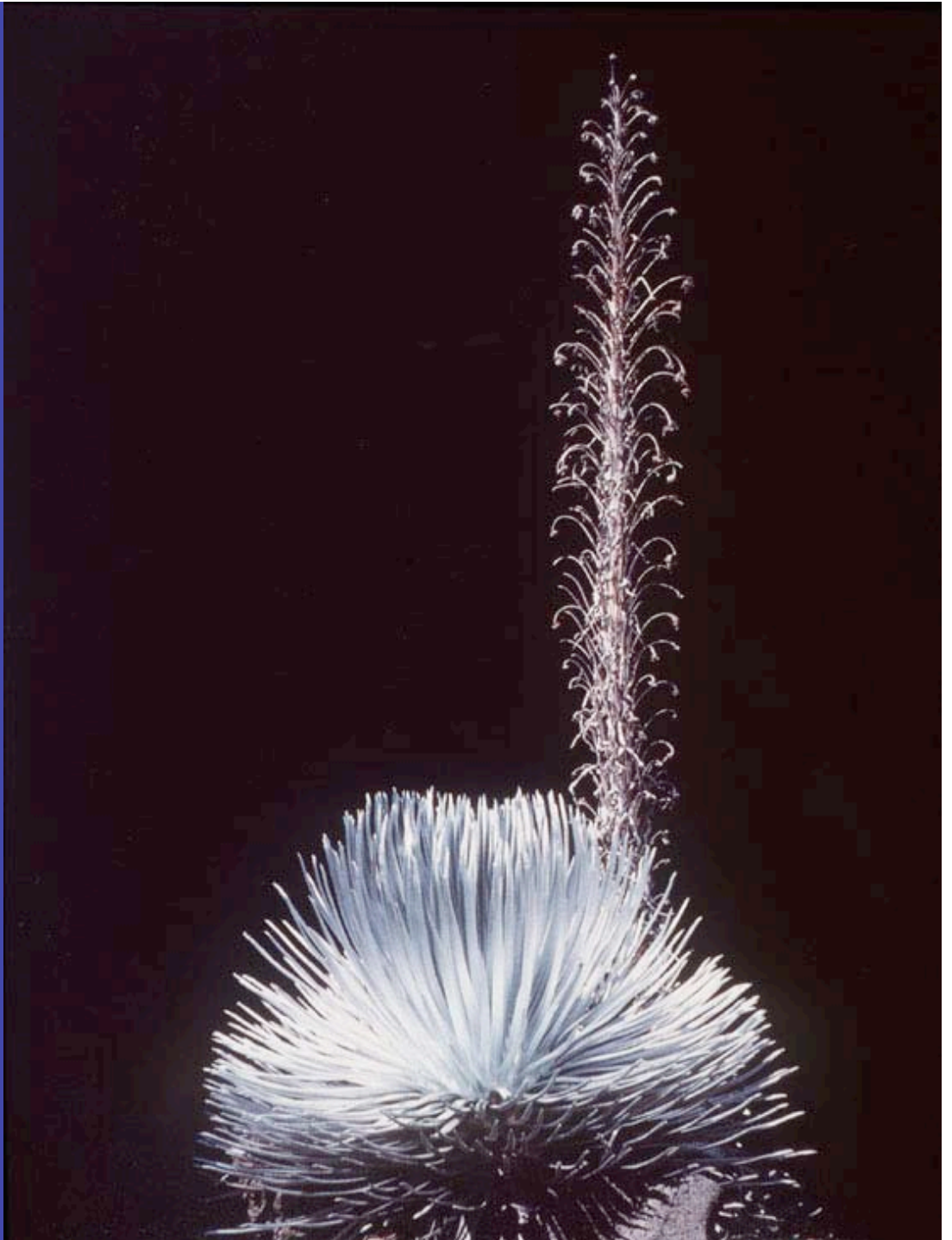


Ahinahina

Argyroxiphium
sandwicense
ssp. sandwicense

Hawaii, Hawaii

(from Middleton and
Littschwager,
Witness, 1994)





Drepanididae

Hawaiian

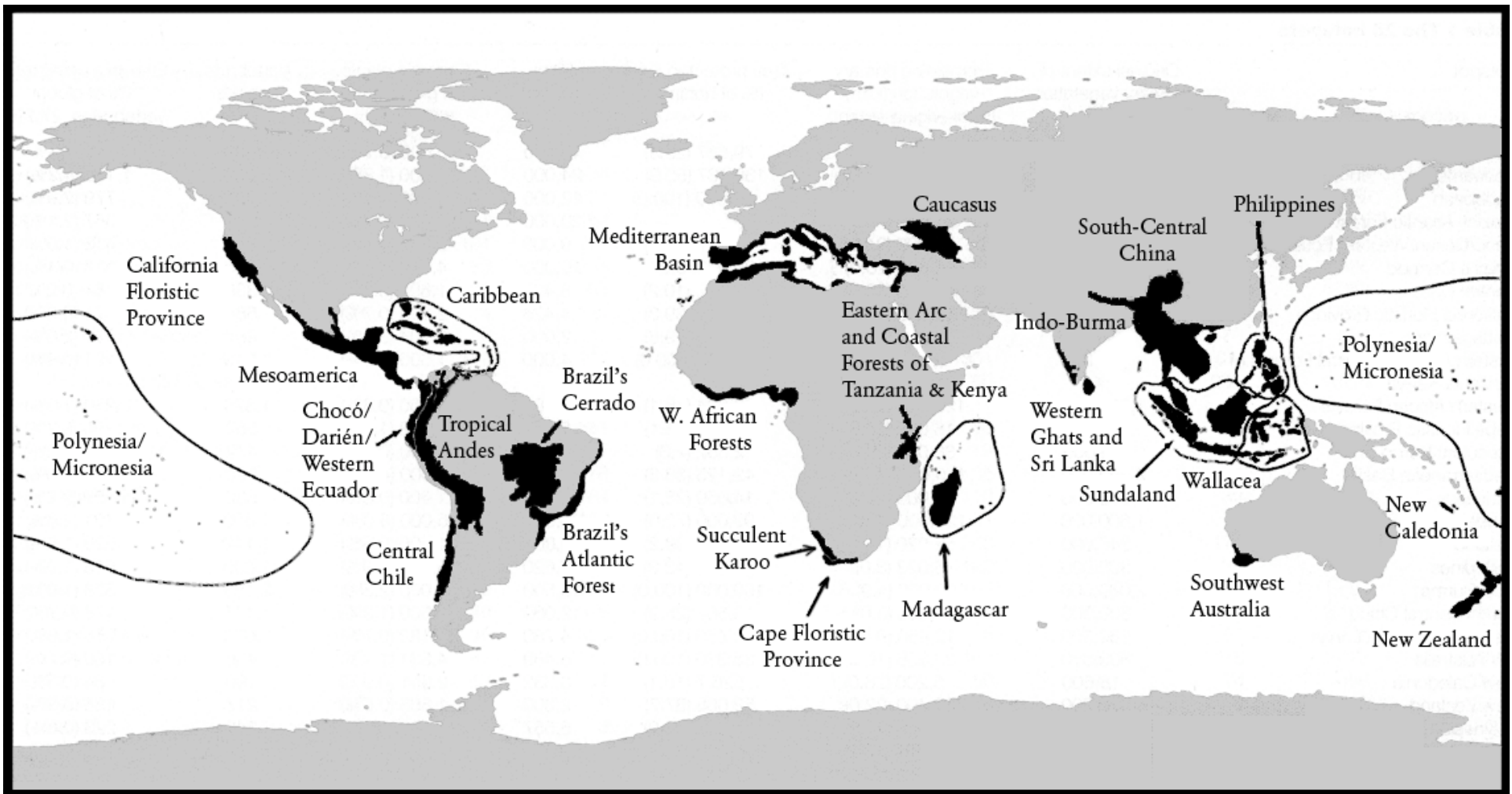
honeycreepers

(from J. M. Scott et al.,
BioScience, April 1988)



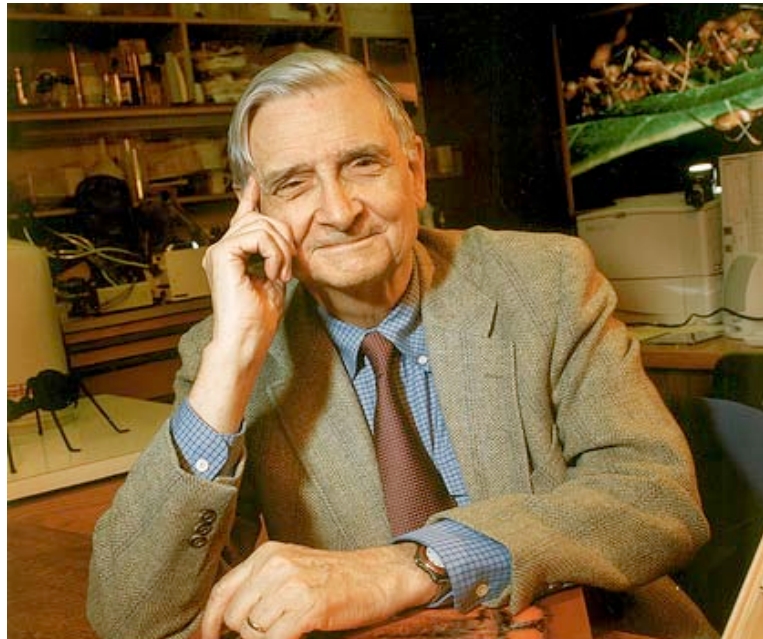
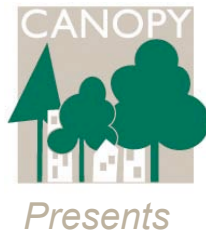
Species gone from Earth

Painting by
Isabella Kirkland



Biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities

(from Norman Myers et al., *Nature* 403, 853, 2000)



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