

# URBANGENE

Biodiversity dynamics in the Geneva urban area

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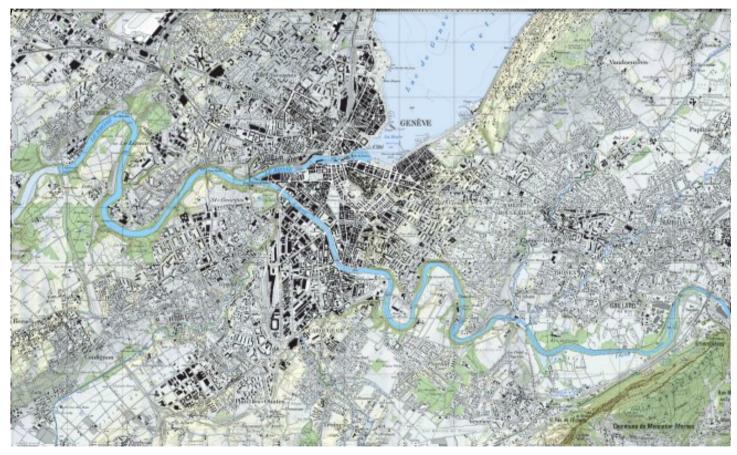




- 1. Urbanization, fragmentation and biodiversity
- 2. Multispecies investigation: impact of the urbanization process on genetic diversity dynamics
  - Grand plantain (*Plantago major*)
  - Piéride de la rave (*Pieris rapae*)
  - Crapaud commun (*Bufo hufo*)
- 3. Social perception of urban biodiversity (GreenTrace)

# 1. Urbanization, fragmentation and biodiversity

#### Urbanization in Geneva (1850-2014)



(swisstopo)

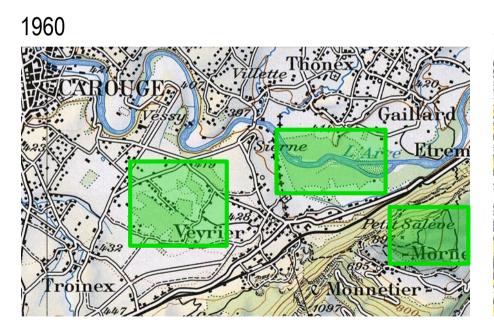


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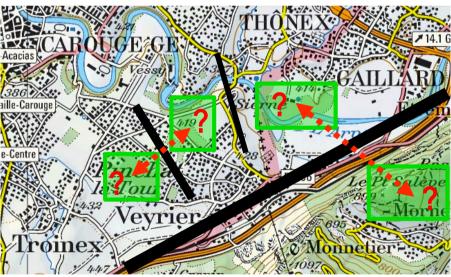
Urbanization

# 1. Urbanization, fragmentation and biodiversity

Urbanization •smaller and more fragmented habitats •connectivity decrease



2010

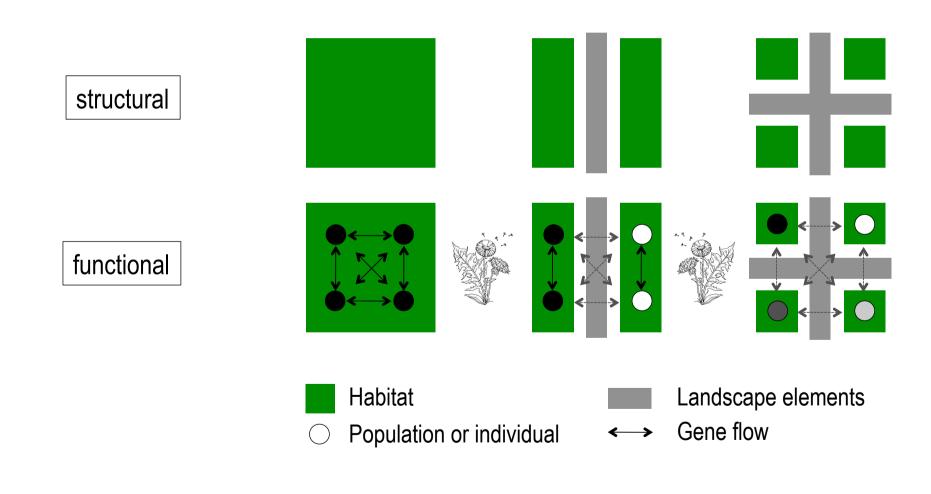




Fragmentation and biodiversity

# 1. Urbanization, fragmentation and biodiversity

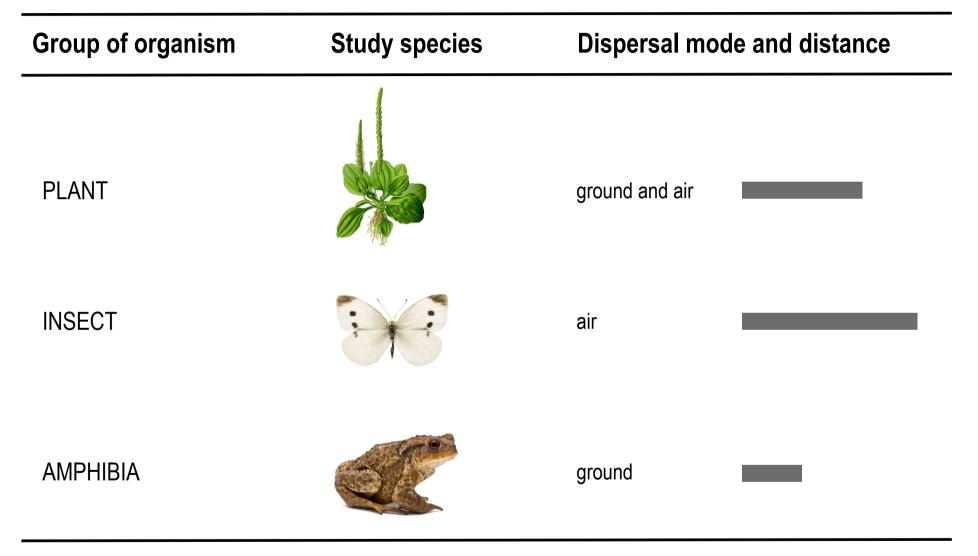
#### Connectivity





Fragmentation and biodiversity

# 2. URBANGENE – Multispecies investigation

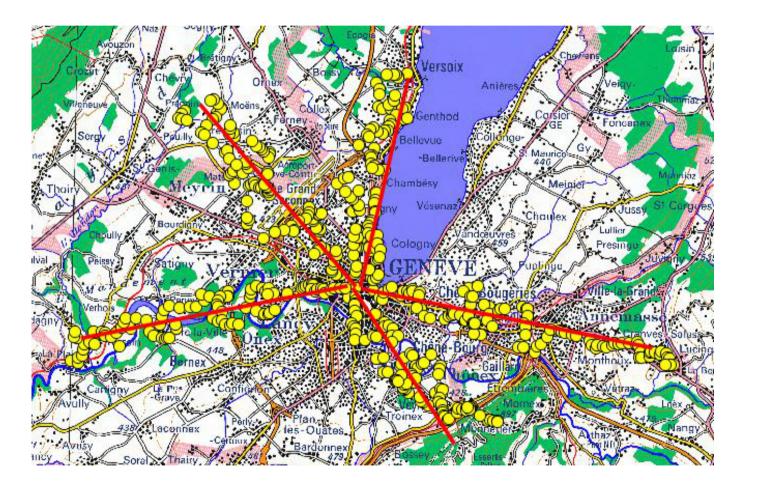




Sampling design

# 2. URBANGENE – Multispecies investigation

#### Sampling design











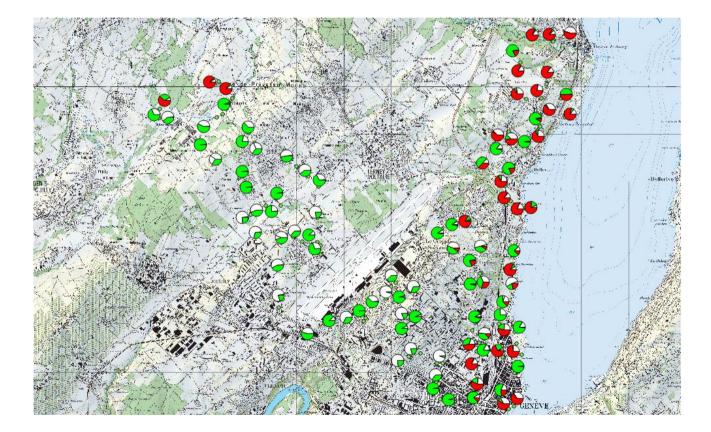
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Sampling design

# 2. URBANGENE – *Plantago major*

Sampling finished in 2014
Genetic analysis of pilot study finished (200 samples, 1700 SNPs)
Preliminary results: weak genetic structure







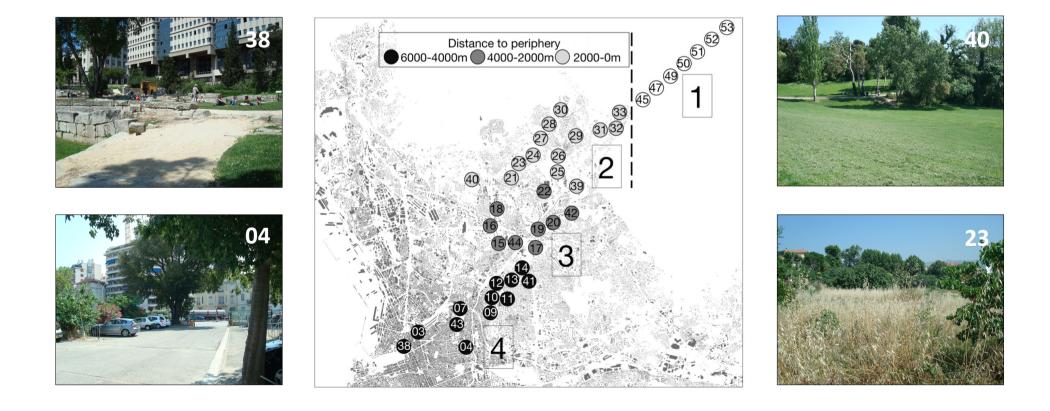
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Plantago major

### 2. URBANGENE – *Pieris rapae*

Sampling in progress (2014)Similar study with *Pieris rapae* in Marseille



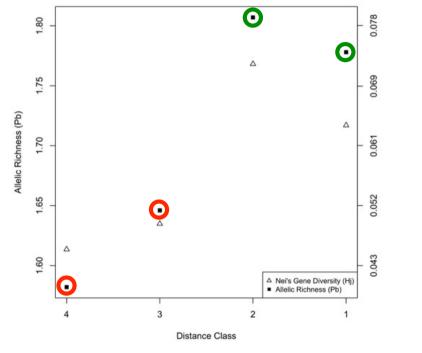


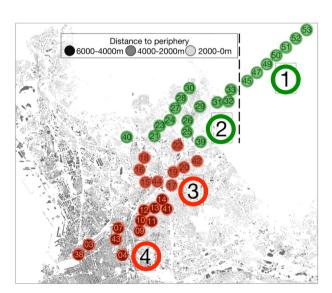


# 2. URBANGENE – *Pieris rapae* (Marseille)

•Weak genetic drift along an urbanization gradient in Marseille







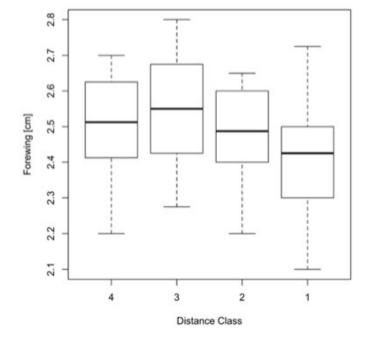
Schoville & Widmer et al. PLOS ONE 2013



# 2. URBANGENE – *Pieris rapae* (Marseille)

#### •Morphological clines along an urbanization gradient in Marseille





Schoville & Widmer et al. PLOS ONE 2013



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Pieris rapae

# 2. URBANGENE – *Bufo bufo*

#### Bufo bufo

•Inventory of ponds in Geneva: participatory WebGIS platform

-> Prof Olivier Ertz, HEIG-VD (Urgangene PPGIS)







#### http://urbangene.heig-vd.ch



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Bufo bufo

# 3. Biodiversity strategy 2012 (OFEV)

•Urbanization causes habitat fragmentation and destruction -> biodiversity in danger

•Biodiversity strategy 2012 of the Federal Office for the Environment -> promotion of the biodiversity in urban areas as a strategic goal

 Society interacts with its natural environment -> cause of the problems are partially social -> solving the problem will need to be based on a solid understanding of social structures, processes and attitudes (GreenTrace)



### 3. GreenTrace: social perception of urban biodiversity

#### Landscape preferences



Obrist et al. 2012

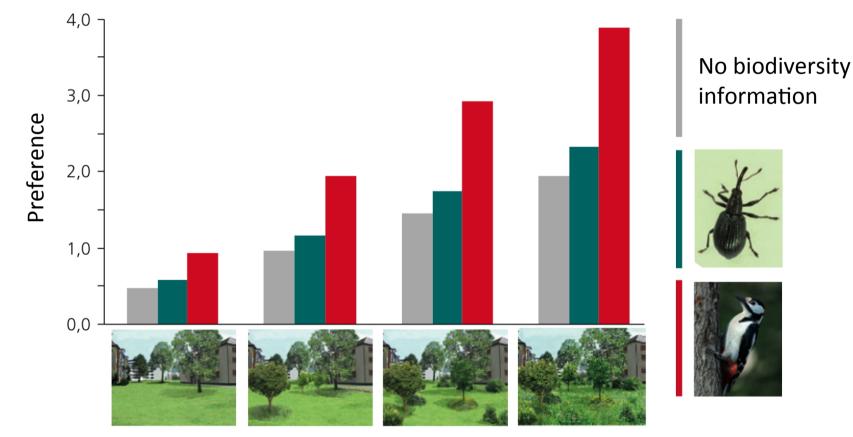


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GreenTrace

### 3. GreenTrace: social perception of urban biodiversity

#### Landscape preferences with biodiversity information



Obrist et al. 2012



GreenTrace

### 3. GreenTrace - Objectifs

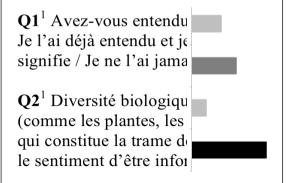
# Based on a representative population survey of the residents of Geneva to understand

how biodiversity is understood and represented
how they evaluate the level of biodiversity in their neighborhood
what is the relative importance of biodiversity in their quality of life

#### Compare the level of biodiversity as perceived by the residents with

Scientific biodiversity measures (% of green space, genetic diversity) -> URBANGENE
Public health data (Body Mass Index and blood pressure) -> GIRAPH

# Assess the relationship between perceived biodiversity and health data with the help of socio-economic and socio-demographic information

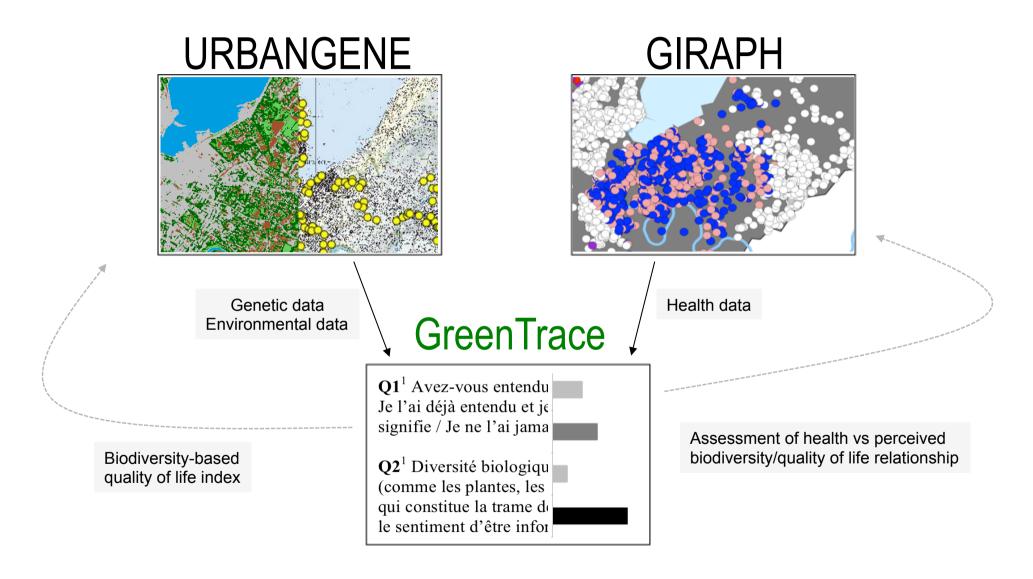






GreenTrace

# 3. GreenTrace and Urbangene





Related projects: GreenTrace

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# News and updates: urbangene.epfl.ch