

Keystone Species: King of an Ecosystem

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Abstract

Keystone species refer to the species in an ecological community that are crucial for the survival of the community or the ecosystem. They are analogous to the keystone in an arch. Keystone species have gained popularity in recent years due to their significance in conservation biology. Even though, the concept was introduced nearly forty years ago, our knowledge on different aspects of these species is still very imprecise. There is still a lot of dilemma and the current practices of identification of these species in a community or ecosystem are divergent to each other. Right practice of identification of these species must be evolved after critical analysis in various ways in order to find a more reasonable and precise basis of their identification. Concept of keystone species, its identification, types, relevance for conservation etc. are discussed in this article.

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