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EDITORIAL NOTE

In a recent paper, Palmer *et al.* (2004) pointed out the need for extensive research in Ecological Science, subsequent applications of which could be useful in maintaining and improving ecosystem services. According to these authors, "maintenance of ecosystem services will require a considerably better understanding of natural patterns and [the] processes that sustain them".

Biological research in neotropical ecosystems certainly contributes to enriching this knowledge and to understanding the complex interactions between physical, chemical, and biological processes in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

In its next editions, by emphasizing biological processes and their interactions the Brazilian Journal of Biology aims to contribute in the effort to stimulate innovative research in this area.

Editorial Board

PALMER, M. *et al.*, 2004, Ecology for a crowded planet. *Science*, 304: 1251-1252.