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# How Should Phylogeny Guide Biodiversity Conservation?

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## Abstract

Much of biological conservation focuses on ecologically, culturally and economically valuable species and the ecosystems that support them. However, many species cannot claim such credentials. They are not valued by humanity for social or economic reasons and they do not serve important and unique ecological roles. How should conservation biologists prioritise the conservation of such unremarkable species? In this paper, I explore solutions to this problem based on phylogenetic interpretations of biodiversity.

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