A host's breadth from extinction:

Identifying co-extinction risk of pollinators in a threatened plant community.

M. Plein[a], M. Moir[b] and P. A. Vesk[a]

[a] ARC Centre for Excellence in Environmental Decisions,
School of Botany, University of Melbourne,
Parkville, VIC 3010, Australia
mplein@student.unimelb.edu.au,
"will consider delivering lightning talk"

[b] Ecosystem Restoration and Intervention Ecology Research Group,
School of Plant Biology, The University of Western Australia,
Crawley, WA 6009, Australia
mmoir@unimelb.edu.au

[a] ARC Centre for Excellence in Environmental Decisions,
School of Botany, University of Melbourne,
Parkville, VIC 3010, Australia
pvesk@unimelb.edu.au

Coextinction, the loss of a dependent species with its host, is regarded as one of the most important drivers of biodiversity loss. Biodiversity hotspots feature many threatened and endemic plants and a high potential for coextinction of dependent species, such as pollinators or herbivores. To evaluate a dependent's risk of coextinction, it is crucial to know its host-breadth, i.e. the number of hosts used by a dependent. In this study, we assessed the host-breadth of flower-visitors to a community of threatened plants in a biodiversity hotspot in the southwest Australia. We used a Bayesian, zero-inflated Poisson regression model with a hierarchical structure to estimate the host-breadth conditional upon the presence of the flower-visitors on the plants. While accounting for uncertainty, the model allowed us to identify two flower-visitors with narrow host breadths, a native bee and a yet undescribed click-beetle. These species are cothreatened and have a high potential of being at risk of coextinction. In the future, managers should conserve these flower-visitors in combination with the plant species, especially when *ex situ* actions such as translocation are considered.