



ent perspective, Di Marco et al. (2016, this issue) examine how to scale population persistence targets from populations up to species using the European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) as a case-study.

Given the ever growing concern caused by biological invasions and the threat posed by alien squirrels, two papers refer to this topic. Di Febbraro et al. (2016, this issue) offer a global picture of predicted current and 2070 potential distributions of eight squirrel species, identifying current potential hotspots of invasion and assessing climate change influences by 2070, whereas White et al. (2016, this issue) model how squirrelpox may spread in the well known red and grey squirrel system. Their model includes a realistic representation of habitat in Southern Scotland and provides important management insights.

Overall, although this special issue has inevitably missed some aspects of the vast universe of applications of SDMs to mammal studies, it showcases an attractive selection of articles highlighting the latest trends in SDM research while also providing much needed cautionary notes on the use of this technique.

Overall, we are confident that our readers will enjoy the articles and that this special issue may boost further developments on this theme. ☞☞

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