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HIGHLIGHTS

A quick glance at noteworthy articles in this month's issue

CAN CLONAL RECRUITMENT SAVE ISOLATED POPULATIONS FROM EXTINCTION?

Resprouting allows small populations of woody plants to persist in the same location for hundreds to thousands of years despite isolation and limited sexual recruitment. Using genetic data and 10 years of demographic data, Evans and Morris (p. 1687) examine the role of clonal vs sexual recruitment in isolated populations of basswood (*Tilia americana* var. *caroliniana*) on coastal islands of Georgia, USA. They find high seedling mortality and cycling of basal sprouts, which, combined with the limited genetic structure and likelihood of 2400 years of isolation, suggests that these populations are primarily maintained by ancient sprouters with limited sexual recruitment. They conclude that sprouting behavior can influence the composition of future plant communities, allow a population to persist through periods of unfavorable environmental conditions, and maintain some genetic diversity in populations with limited sexual reproduction.

Jonathan P. Evans and Ashley B. Morris. 2016. Isolated coastal populations of *Tilia americana* var. *caroliniana* persist long-term through vegetative growth. *American Journal of Botany* 103: 1687–1693. doi: 10.3732/ajb.1600233