Urbanisation, Climate Change and Pollution: making do of the Anthropocene in Ecology & Evolution

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Résumé

The Anthropocene, a proposed geological epoch shaped by human activity, presents a set of intertwined environmental threats that endanger biodiversity, climate stability, and human well-being. These challenges not only provoke significant ecological disruptions but also drive rapid evolutionary changes in various species. In my presentation, I will explore three key Anthropocene drivers-urbanisation, climate change, and pollution-and their evolutionary consequences. **First**, I will delve into the impact of *urbanisation* on wildlife, particularly passerine birds, in an understudied region: Eastern Europe. I will further explore the complex ways political systems shape ecological and evolutionary patterns and address the underappreciated effects of armed conflict on evolutionary ecology. **Second**, I will discuss how urbanisation and *climate change* often act as compounded stressors on urban wildlife, and highlight the importance of mitigating these processes in our endeavor to build resilient urban communities for the future. **Finally**, I will end on a lighter note by focusing on the intriguing effects of global *plastic pollution*. Specifically, I will report on how terrestrial hermit crabs have begun using plastic waste as protective shells-a phenomenon that could shape their evolutionary trajectory in unexpected ways.

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