

**Science**[Prev](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next](#)

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## • PERSPECTIVE

## ECOLOGY

**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function: The Debate Deepens**

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One of the tenets of the conservation movement has been that areas containing many species—those of high biodiversity—are particularly worth saving, since ecosystems of high diversity show improved ecosystem function. As Grime explains in his Perspective, this tenet is being replaced by another view, which is bolstered by three reports in this week's issue (pages [1296](#), [1300](#), and [1302](#)). These studies all show that it is actually the specific features of the species in an ecosystem that determine its function—not their number.

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## THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN CITED BY OTHER ARTICLES:

**Effects of plant species diversity on soil conservation and stability in the secondary succession phases of a semihumid evergreen broadleaf forest in China***Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 1 July 2012: 311–320.[Abstract](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**ASSESSING THE ECOLOGICAL DOMINANCE OF PHANEROZOIC MARINE INVERTEBRATES***PALAIOS* 1 October 2006: 431–441.[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**Plant invasions: merging the concepts of species invasiveness and community invasibility***Progress in Physical Geography* 1 July 2006: 409–431.[Abstract](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**Variation in "biodiversity value" of peatmoss species in Sphagnum section Acutifolia (Sphagnaceae)***Am. J. Bot.* 1 November 2005: 1774–1783.[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**Trophic Control of Production in a Rocky Intertidal Community***Science* 26 April 2002: 736–739.[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**Diversity and Productivity in a Long-Term Grassland Experiment***Science* 26 October 2001: 843–845.[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**No Consistent Effect of Plant Diversity on Productivity***Science* 25 August 2000: 1255a–1255.

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**Poverty, Defense, and the Environment: How Policy Optics, Policy Incompleteness, fastthinking.com, Equivalency Paradox, Deliberation Trap, Mailbox Dilemma, the Urban Ecosystem, and the End of Problem Solving Recast Difficult Policy Issues**

*Administration & Society* 1 January 2000: 687–725.

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**ECOLOGY: Diversity and Production in European Grasslands**

*Science* 5 November 1999: 1099–1100.

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**Plant Diversity and Productivity Experiments in European Grasslands**

*Science* 5 November 1999: 1123–1127.

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*Science* 19 December 1997: 2040c.

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