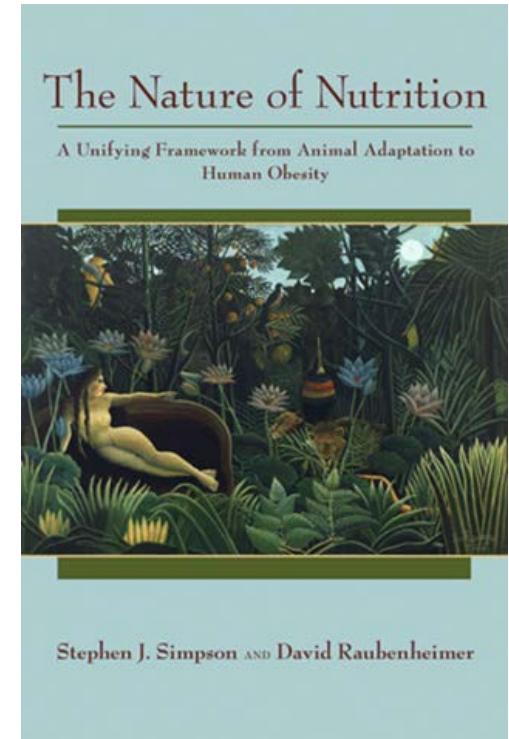
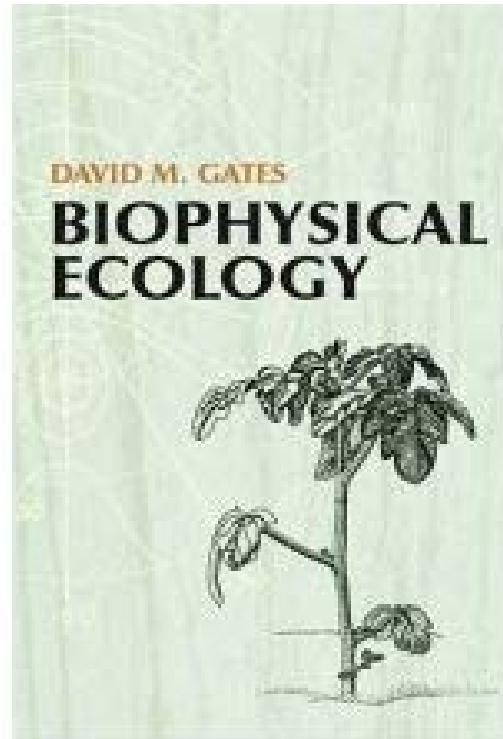
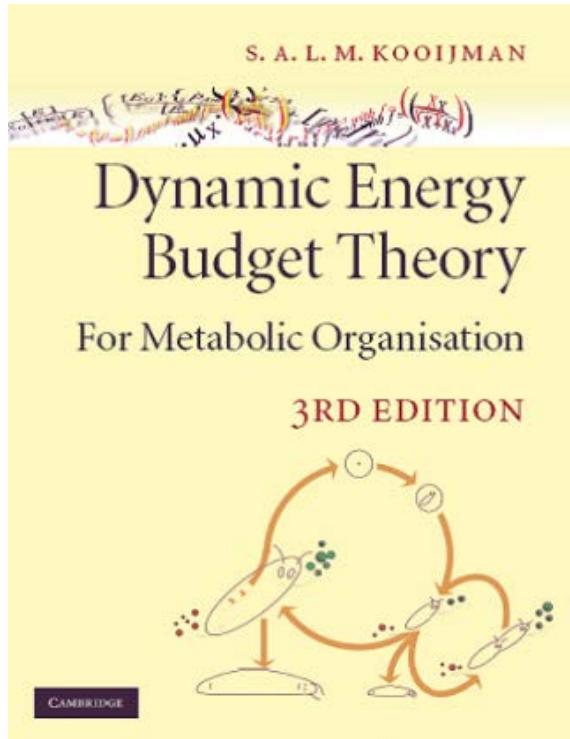


# Mechanistic Niche Models



Michael Kearney [mrke@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mrke@unimelb.edu.au)  
School of BioSciences, The University of Melbourne

# Mechanistic Niche Models

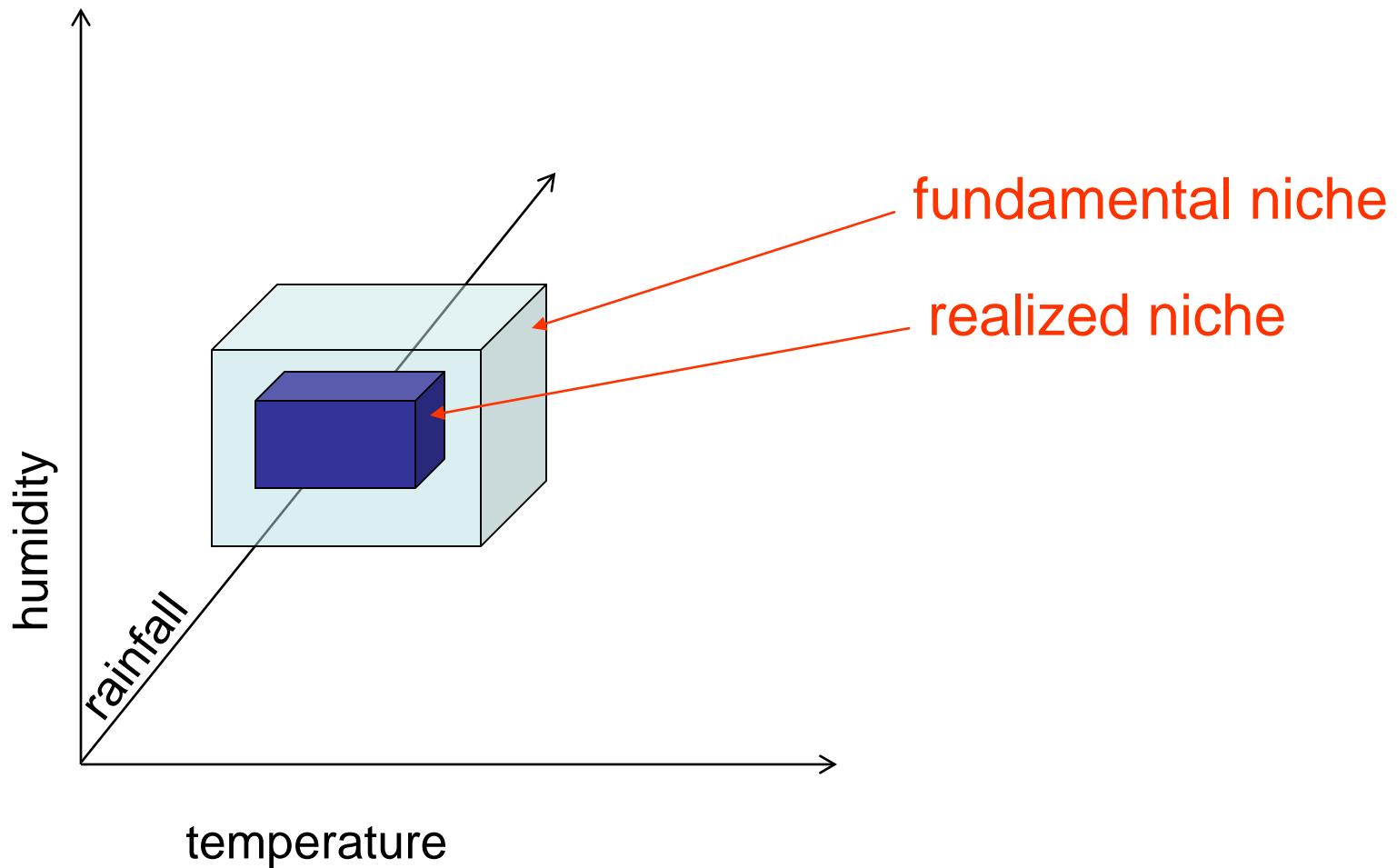
## Part I

- What is a mechanistic niche model?
  - Thermodynamic basis to the niche
  - The importance of temperature
  - Heat budgets
  - Microclimates
  - Water budgets
  - Play with NicheMapR
- 
- Biophysical Ecology

## Part II

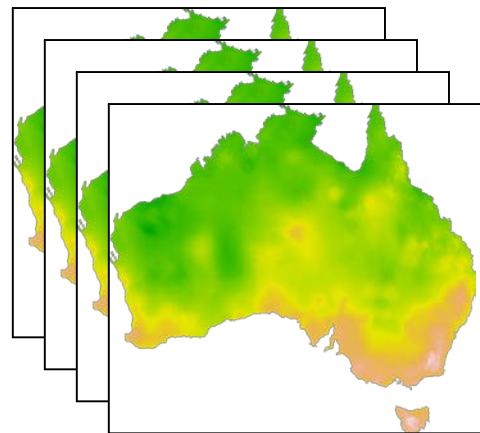
- Connecting to the Dynamic Energy Budget
- Play with NicheMapR
- Inferring climatic constraints
- Nutritional constraints

# What is a mechanistic niche model?



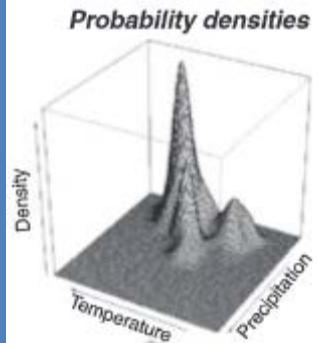
# What is a mechanistic niche model?

Environmental Layers

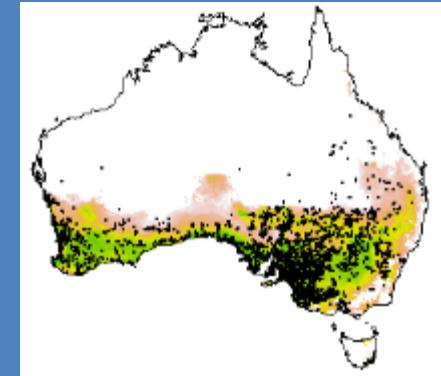


*Correlative Model (process implicit)*

Maxent model

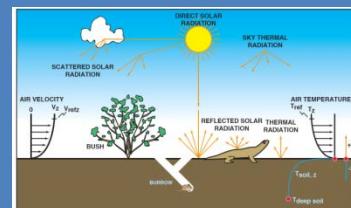


probability of occurrence

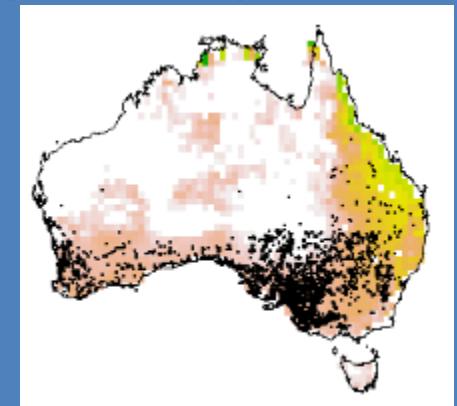


*Mechanistic Model (process explicit)*

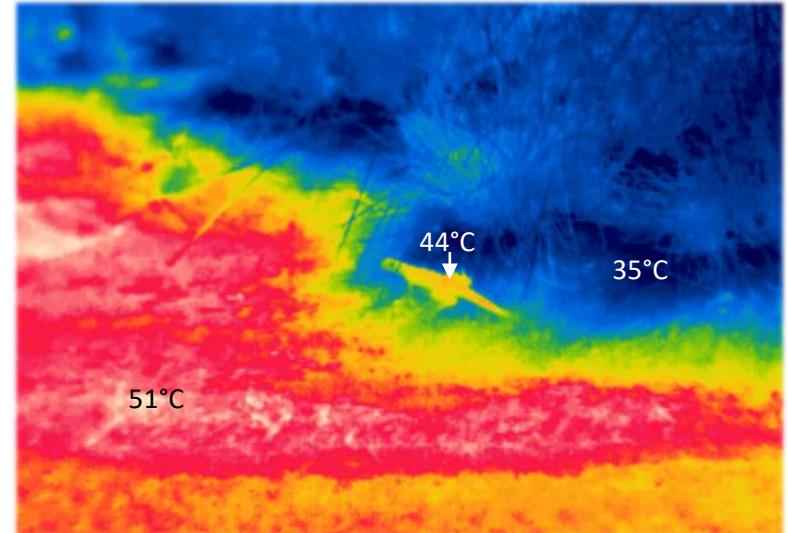
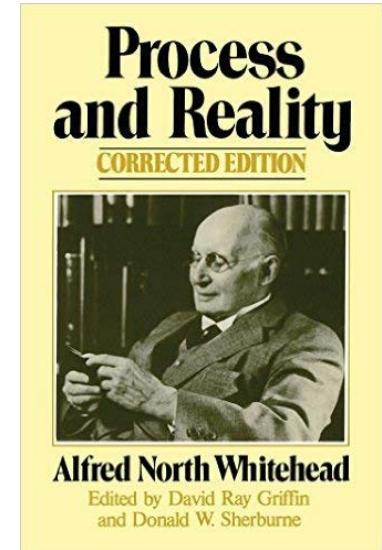
NicheMapR model



potential reproduction



# Thermodynamic basis to the niche



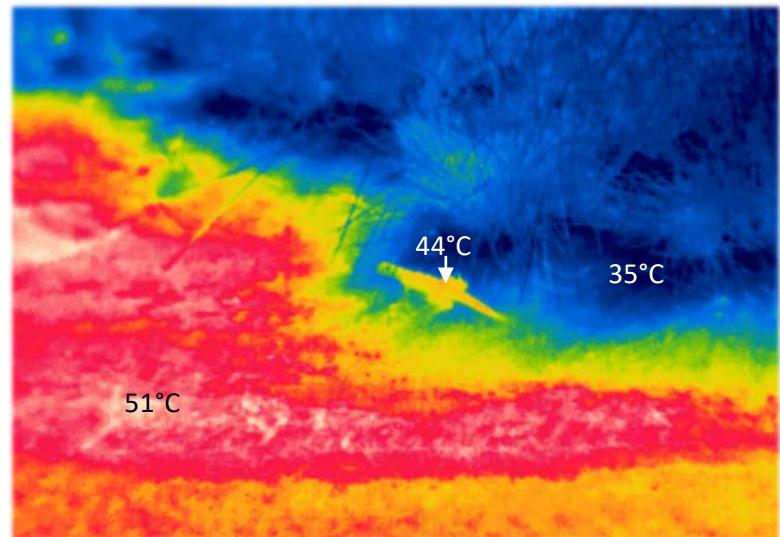
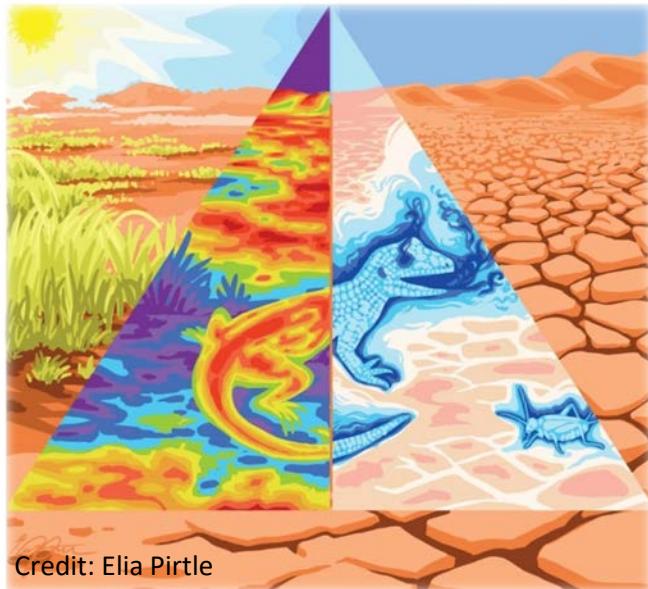
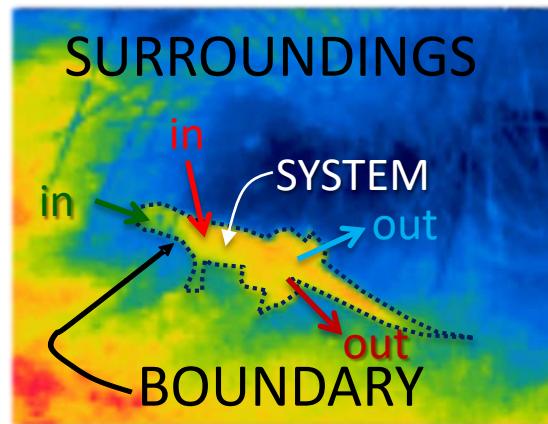
# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

**energy in =**

**energy out + energy stored**

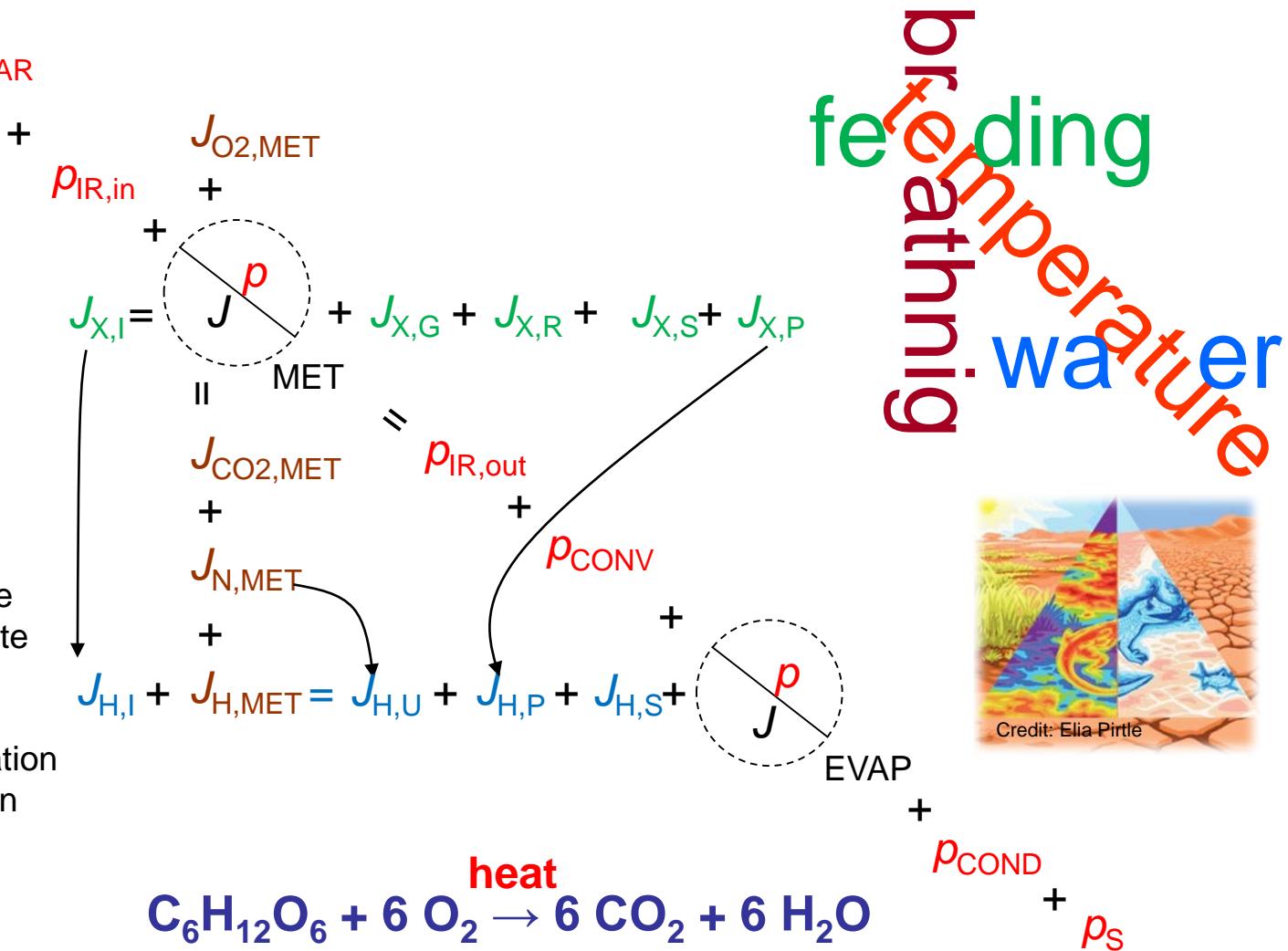
**mass in =**

**mass out + mass stored**

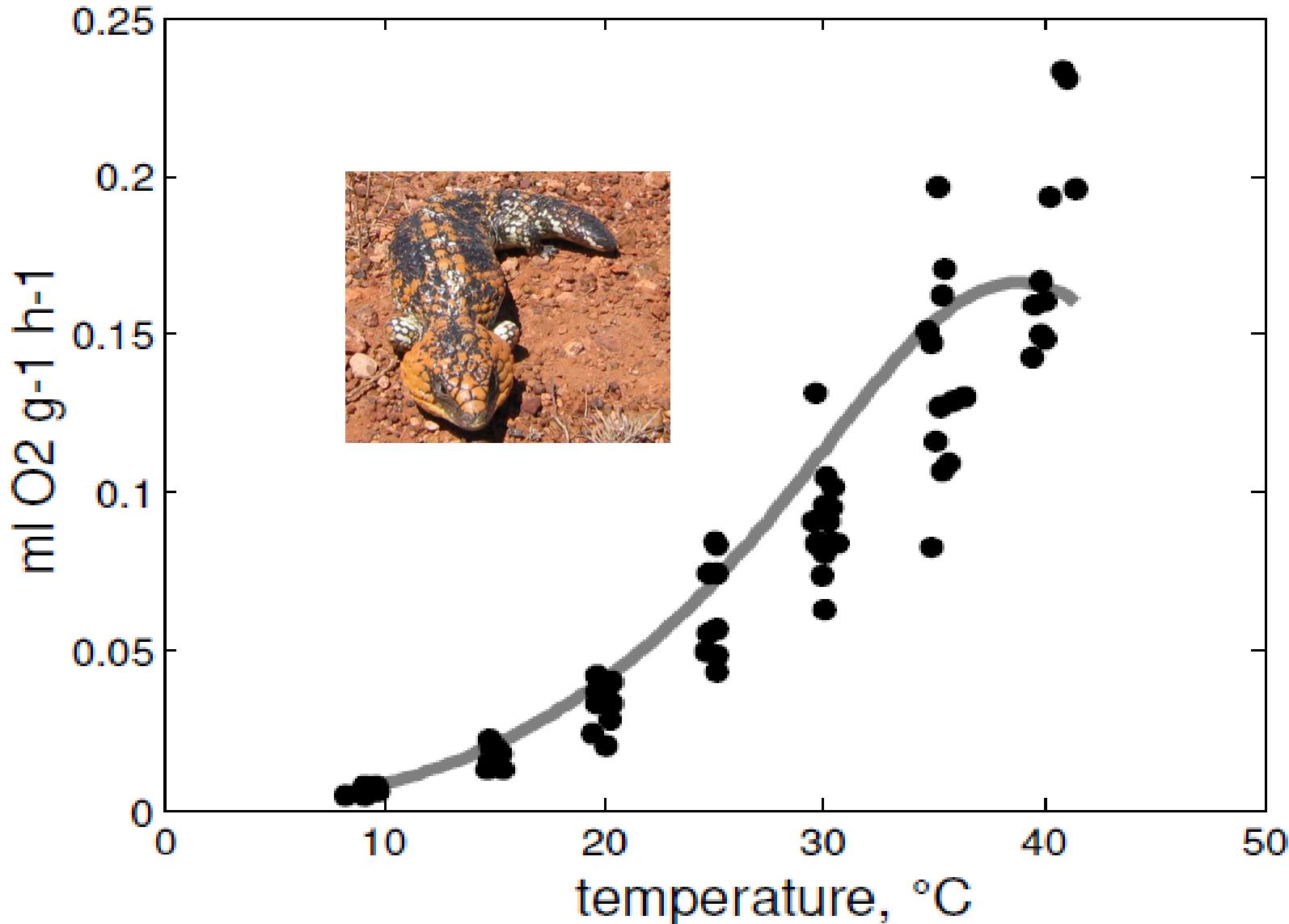


# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

$p$  = heat flux  
 $J$  = mass flux  
 $X$  = food  
 $H$  = water  
 I = ingested  
 P = product (faeces)  
 U = urinated  
 G = growth  
 R = reproduction  
 S = stored  
 $O_2$  = oxygen  
 $CO_2$  = carbon dioxide  
 N = nitrogenous waste  
 MET = 'metabolism'  
 EVAP = evaporation  
 SOLAR = solar radiation  
 IR = infrared radiation  
 CONV = convection  
 COND = conduction



# The importance of temperature

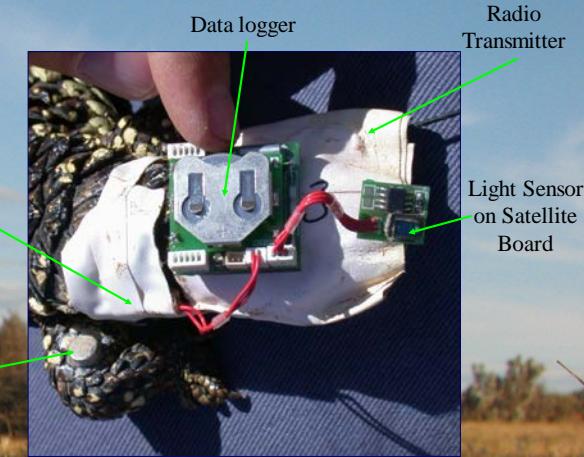
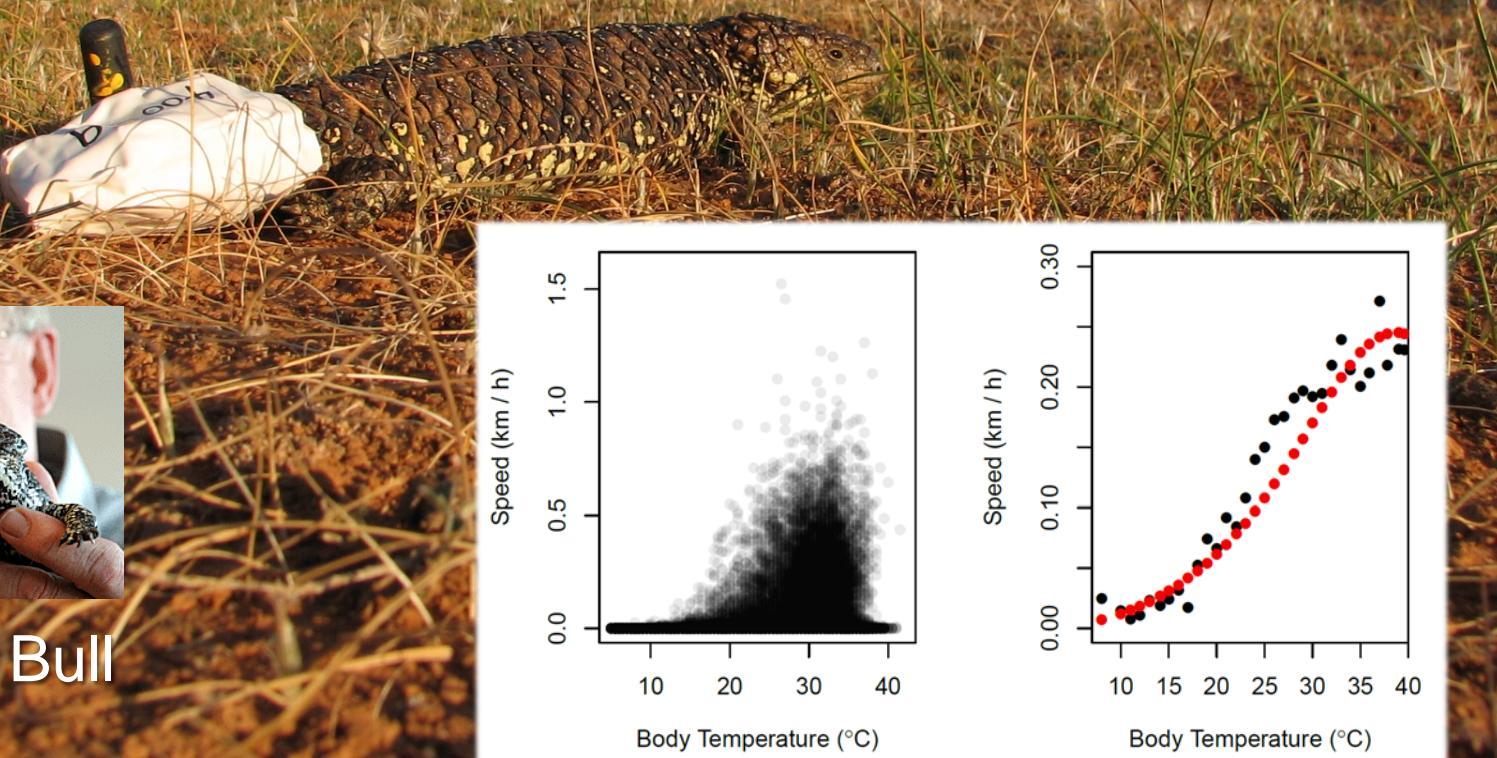


# The importance of temperature

## The ‘waddleometer’

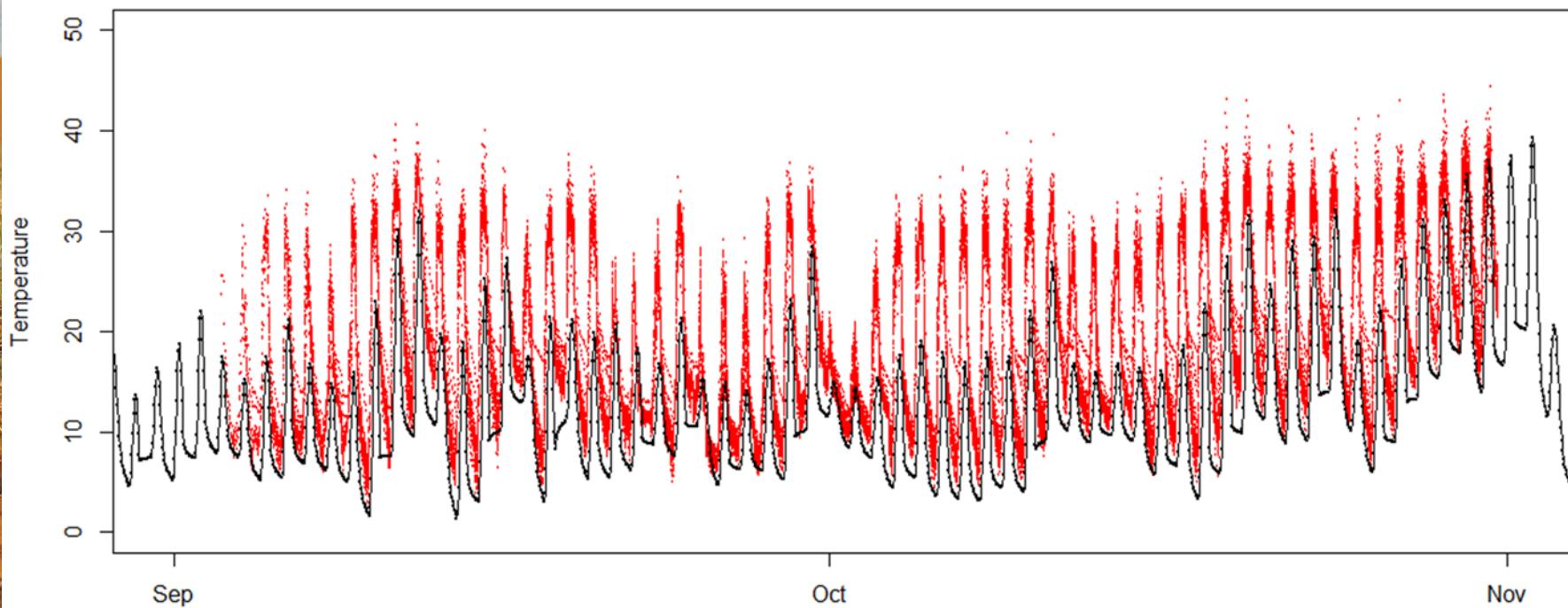


Prof. Mike Bull

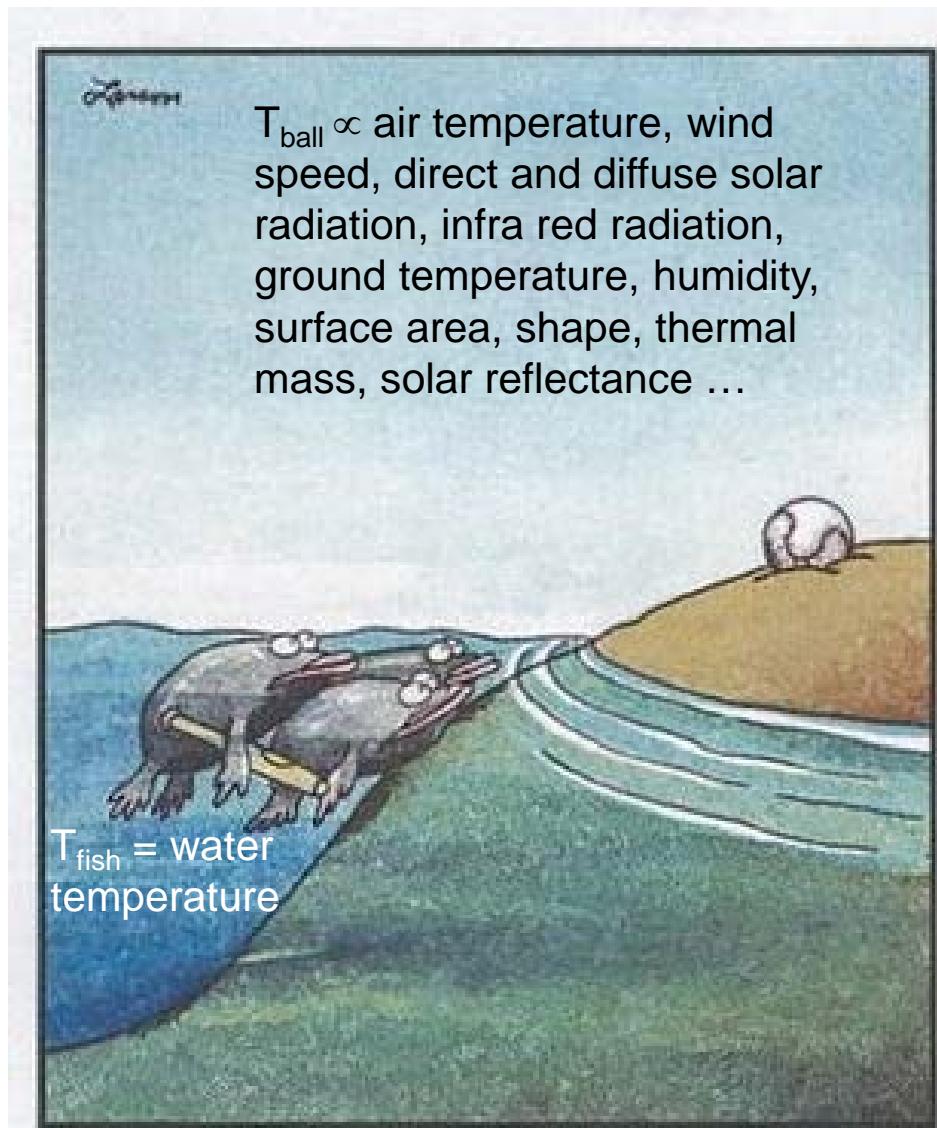


# The importance of temperature

60 Lizards'  $T_b$ s in 2009

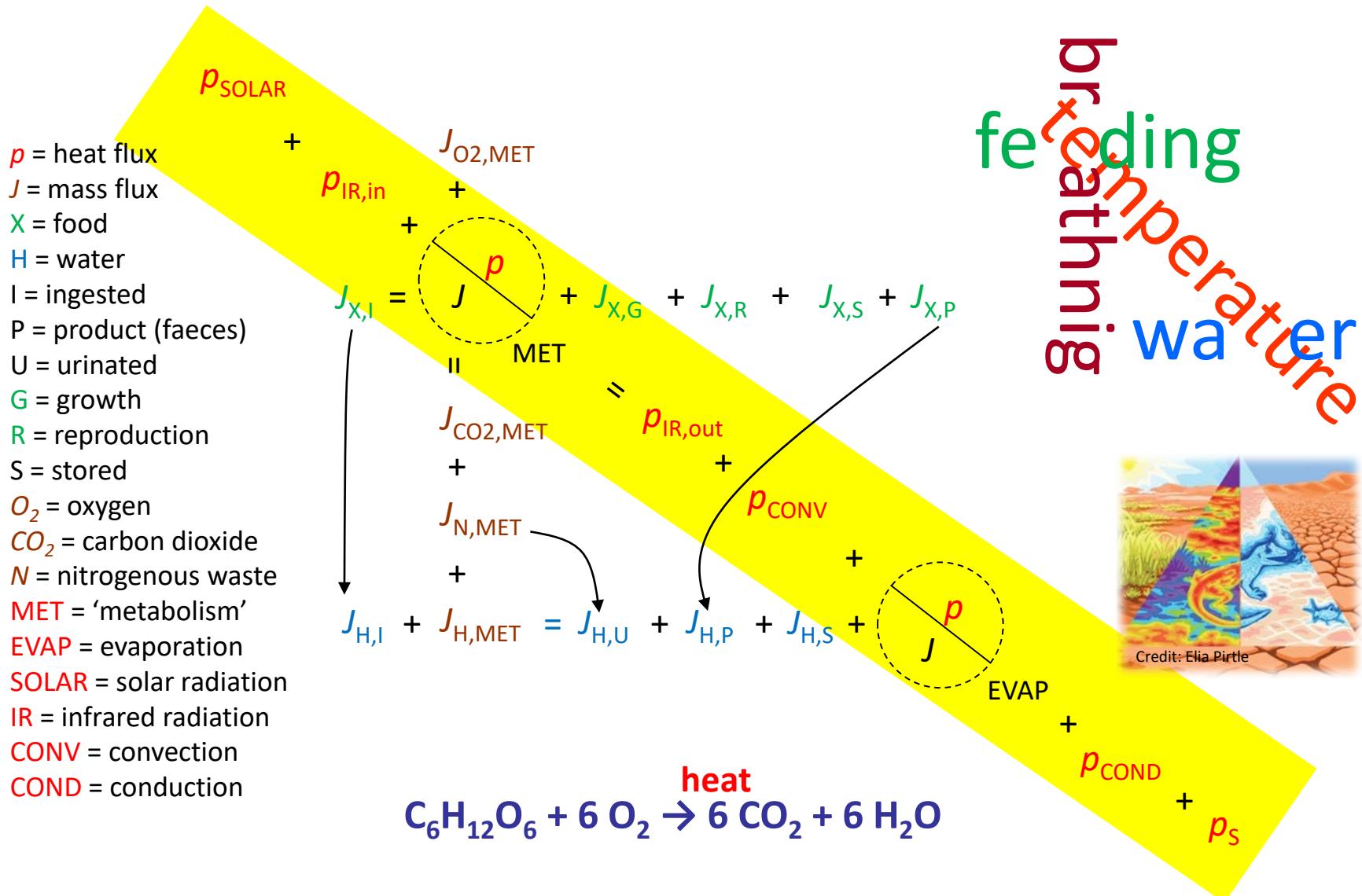


# The importance of temperature



# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

$p$  = heat flux  
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 COND = conduction



# Biophysical Ecology

THERMODYNAMIC EQUILIBRIA OF ANIMALS WITH ENVIRONMENT<sup>1</sup>

WARREN P. PORTER<sup>2</sup> AND DAVID M. GATES

Missouri Botanical Garden  
2315 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110  
and  
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 63130

*Ecological Monographs* 39(3), 227-244 (1969)



Warren Porter  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison

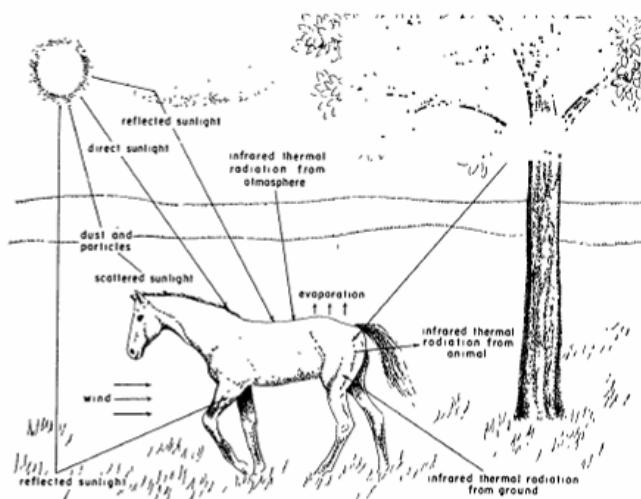
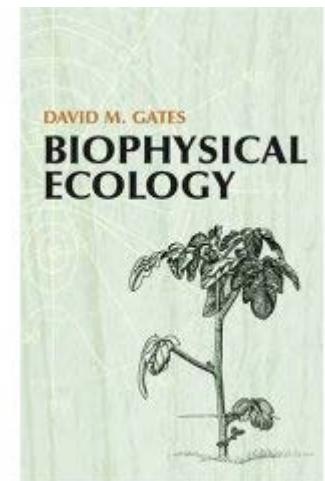


FIG. 1. Streams of energy between an animal and the environment.



# Biophysical Ecology – Heat Budgets

## (Heat) Energy Balance of a Lizard

Solar + Infra-red =  
(gained)           (gained)

Infra-red + Convection  
(lost)               (gained/lost)

$$Q_a - \underbrace{\sigma [T_b + 273]^4}_{\text{infra-red radiation lost}} - h_c [T_b - T_a] = 0$$

convection

wind speed  $V$ ,  
organism size  $D$

air temperature

infra-red and  
solar radiation  
gained

$$h_c = 3.49 \frac{V^{0.5}}{D^{0.5}}$$

The diagram illustrates the components of the lizard's heat balance equation. On the left, an upward arrow labeled 'infra-red and solar radiation gained' points to the first term,  $Q_a$ . To the right of the minus sign, a bracket labeled 'infra-red radiation lost' groups the second term,  $\sigma [T_b + 273]^4$ . Further to the right, another bracket labeled 'convection' groups the third term,  $h_c [T_b - T_a]$ . Below the equation, the formula for  $h_c$  is given as  $h_c = 3.49 \frac{V^{0.5}}{D^{0.5}}$ . Arrows point from the labels 'wind speed  $V$ , organism size  $D$ ' and 'air temperature' to their respective terms in the equation.

# Biophysical Ecology – Heat Budgets

What would the body temperature be if ...?



Diameter = 0.015 m

Wind speed = 2.0 m/s

Air temperature = 20 °C

Radiation = 700 W/m<sup>2</sup>

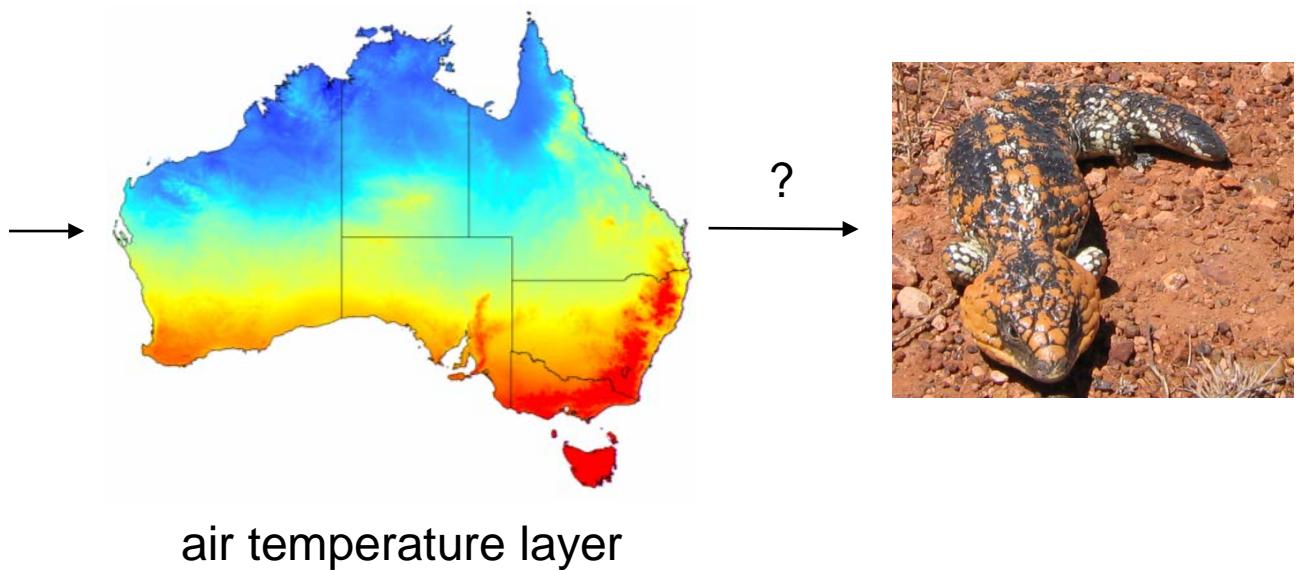
T<sub>b</sub> = 26 °C

If we know the environmental conditions, we can find the body temperature which satisfies the energy balance equation

$$Q_a - \sigma[T_b + 273]^4 - 3.49 \frac{V^{0.5}}{D^{0.5}} [T_b - T_a] = 0$$

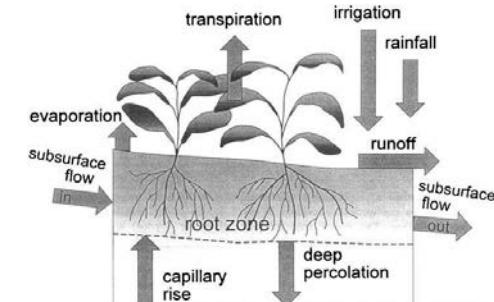
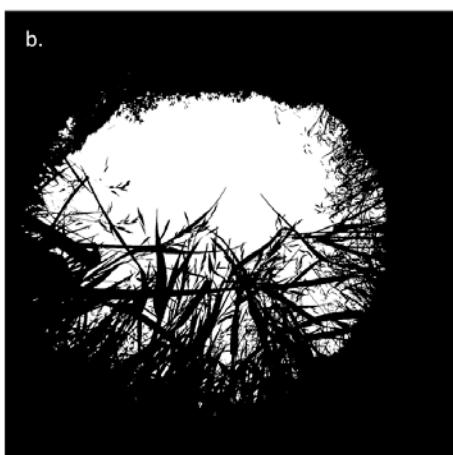
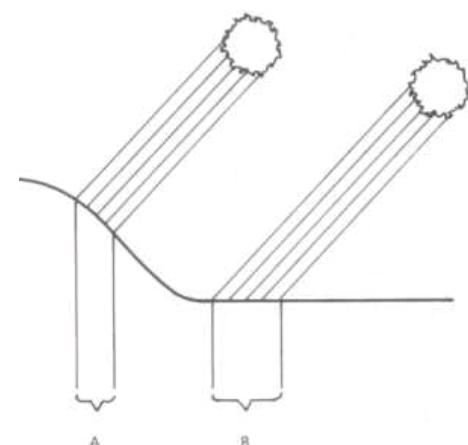
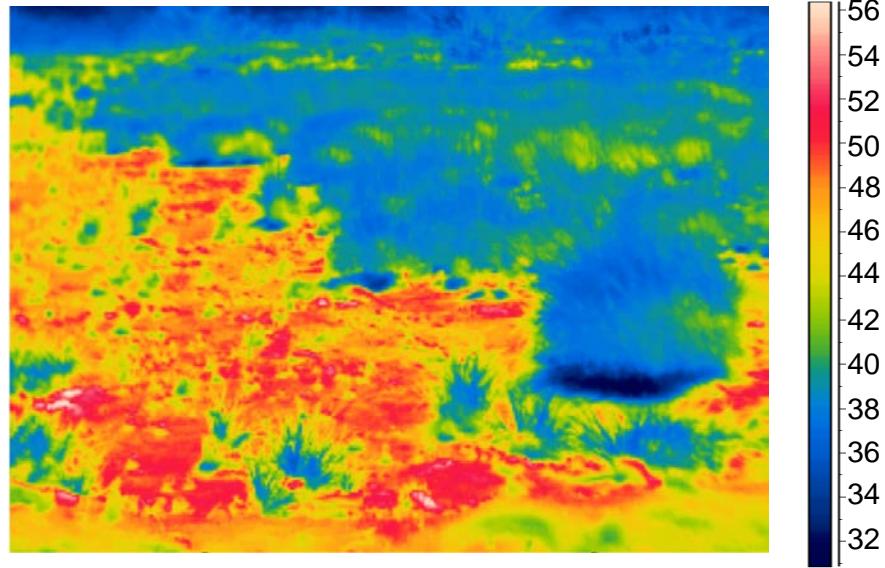
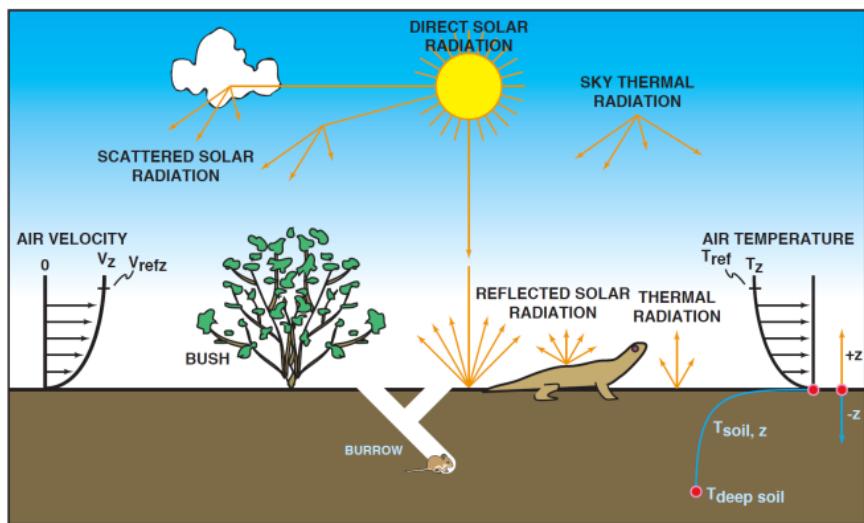
$$700 - \sigma[T_b + 273]^4 - 3.49 \frac{2.0^{0.5}}{0.015^{0.5}} [T_b - 20] = 0$$

# Biophysical Ecology – Microclimates



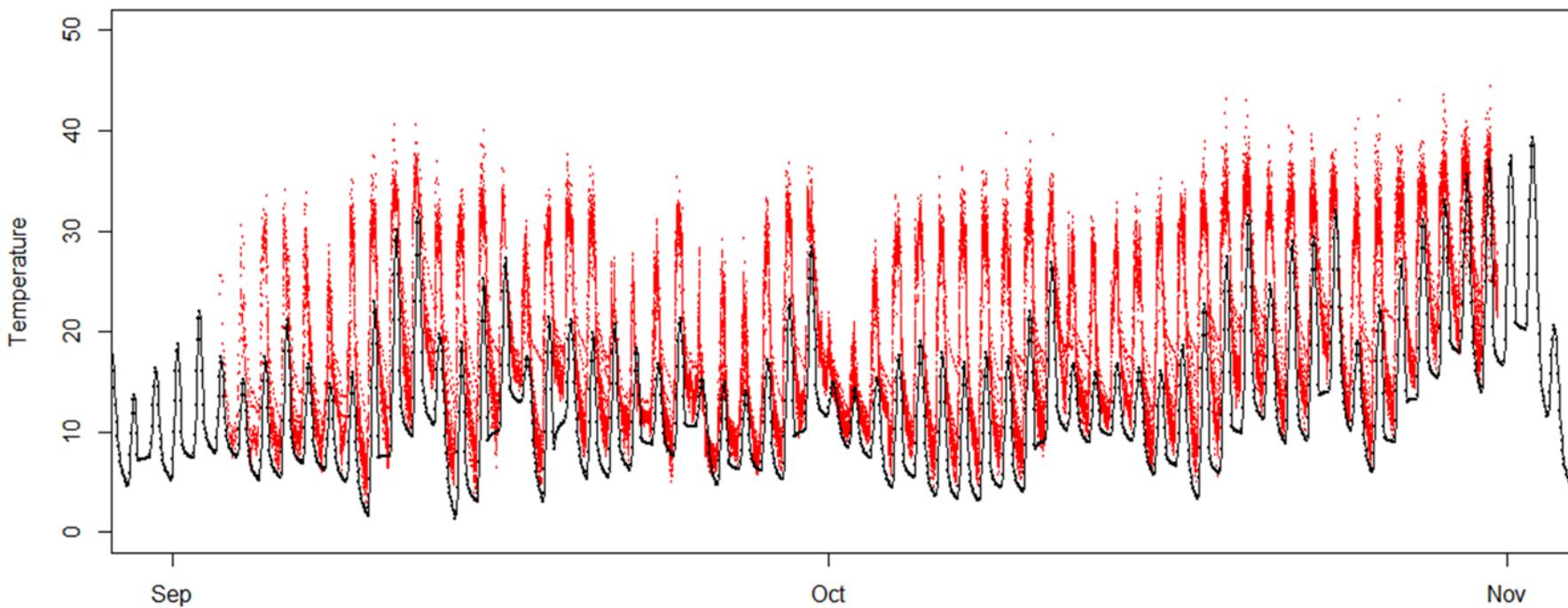
weather station

# Biophysical Ecology – Microclimates



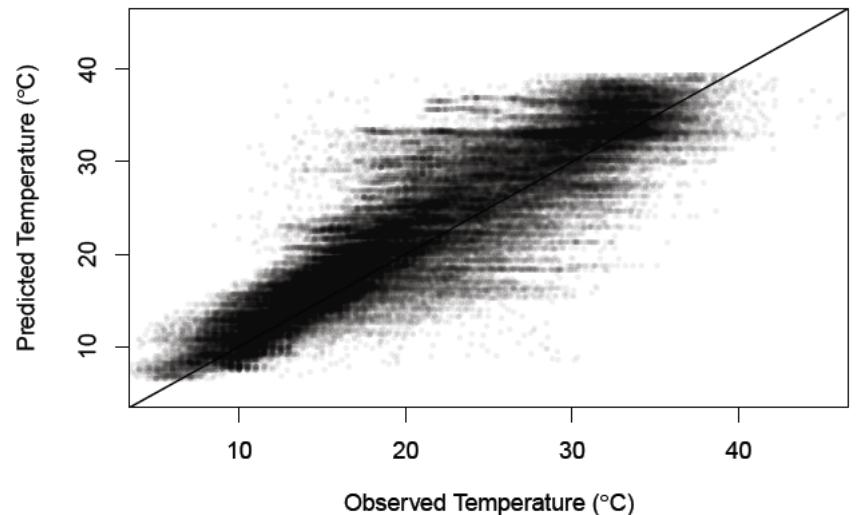
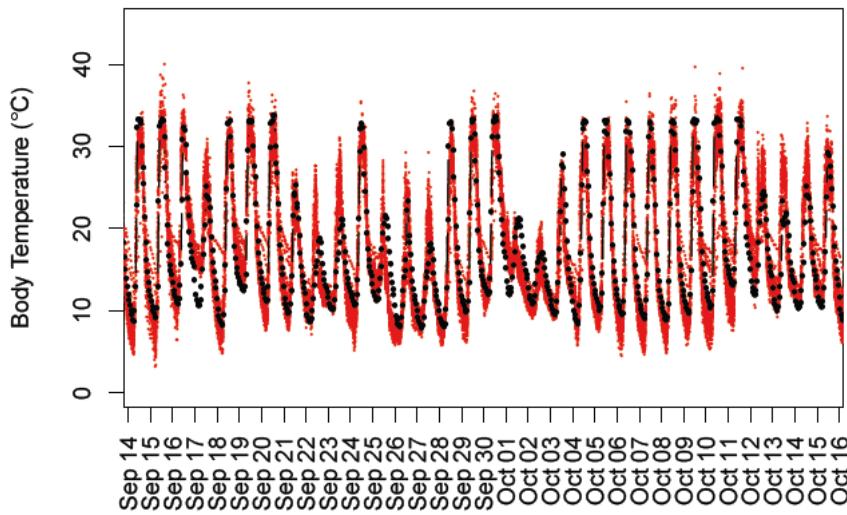
# Biophysical Ecology – Heat Budgets

60 Lizards'  $T_b$ 's in 2009

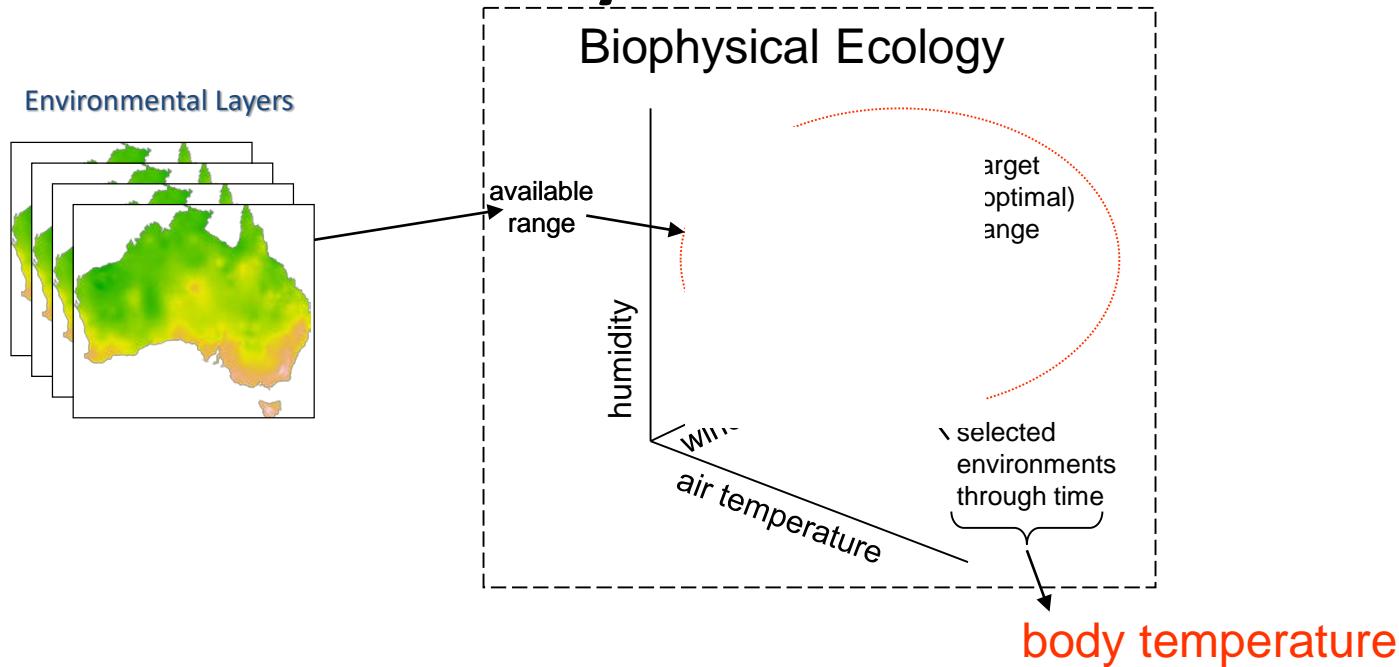


# Biophysical Ecology – Heat Budgets

60 Lizards'  $T_b$ 's in 2009

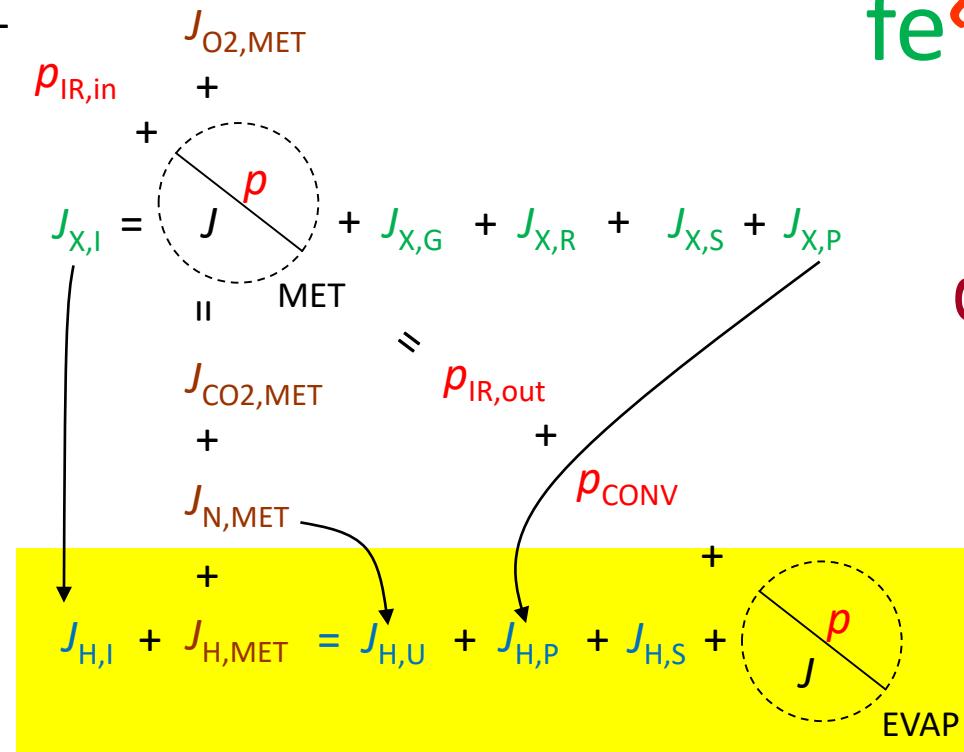


# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

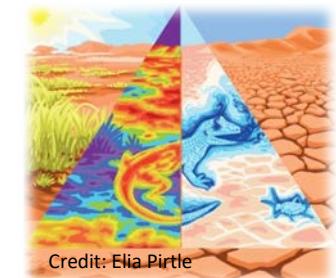


# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

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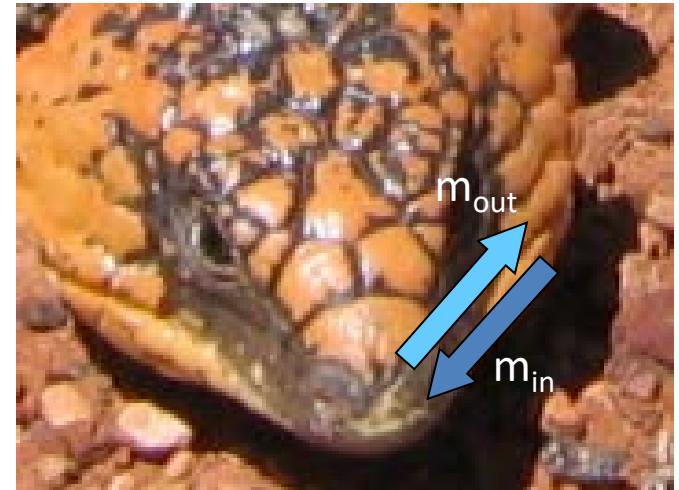
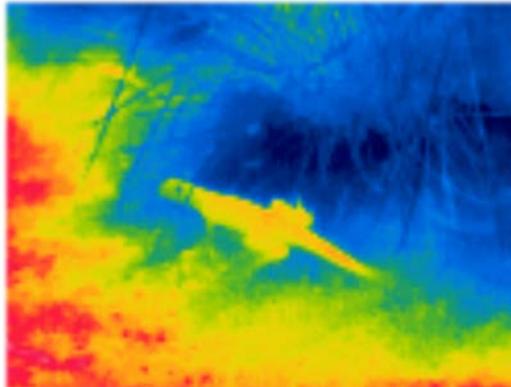
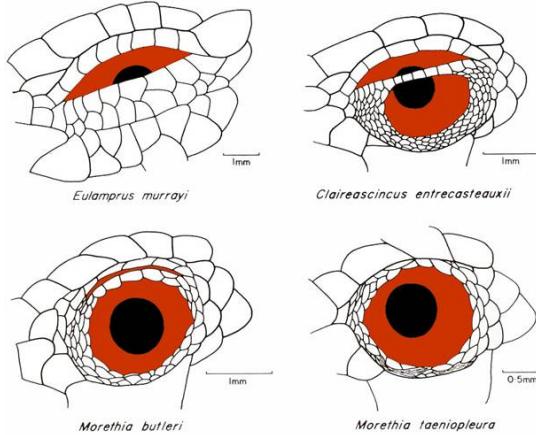


breeding temperature  
 feeding temperature  
 water



# Water budget - evaporation

Greer 1989 Biology and Evolution of Australian Lizards



$$Q_{\text{evap,cut}} = A_{\text{evap}} h_d (V_{d,\text{skin}} - V_{d,\text{air}}) \lambda$$

area wet,  $\text{m}^2$

latent heat of vaporisation,

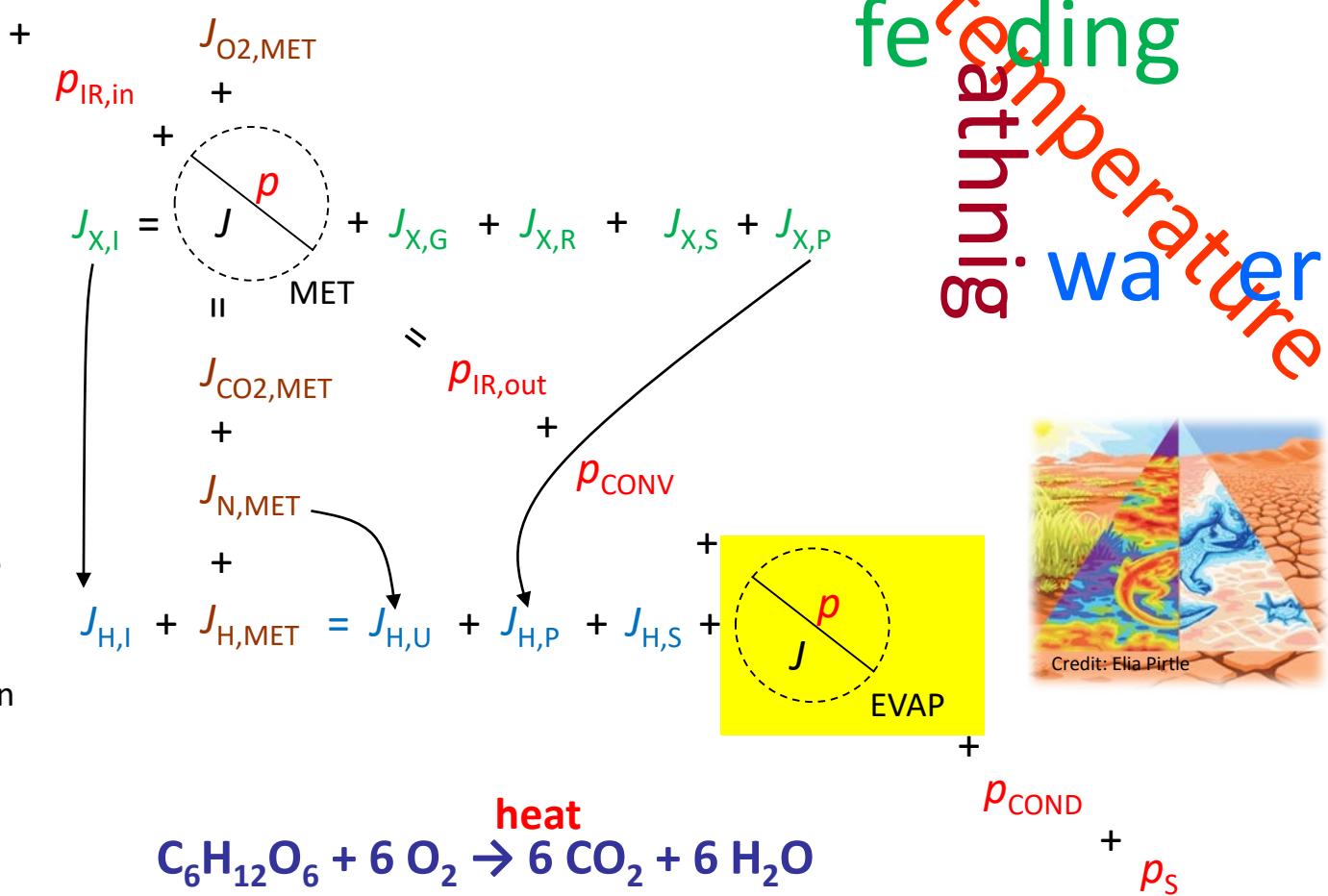
mass transfer coefficient

vapor density,

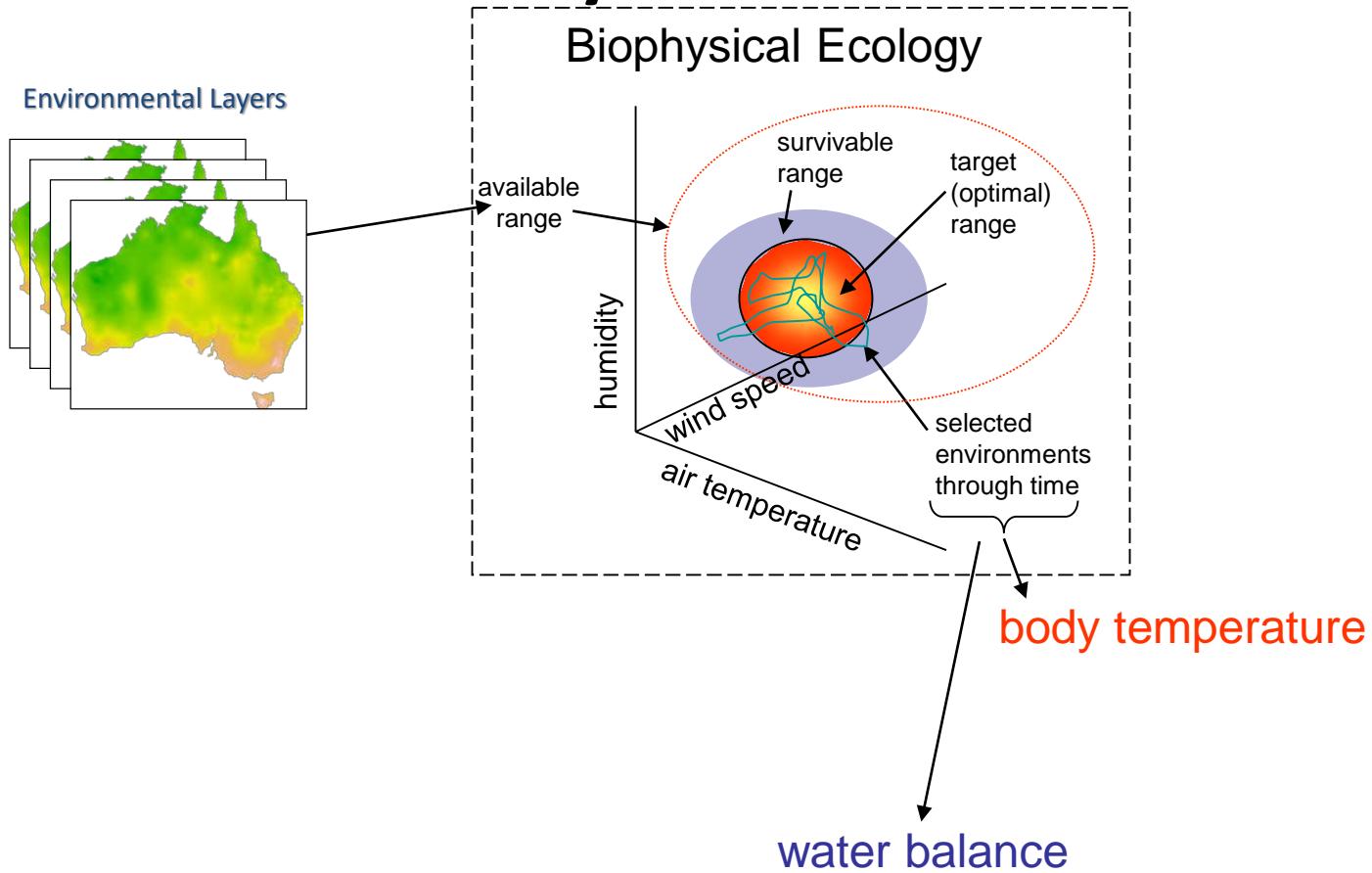
$$Q_{\text{evap,resp}} = \lambda(m_{\text{out,resp}} - m_{\text{in,resp}})$$

# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

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**SOLAR** = solar radiation  
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 COND = conduction



# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

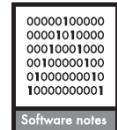
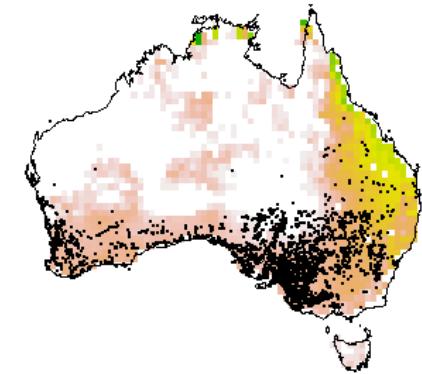
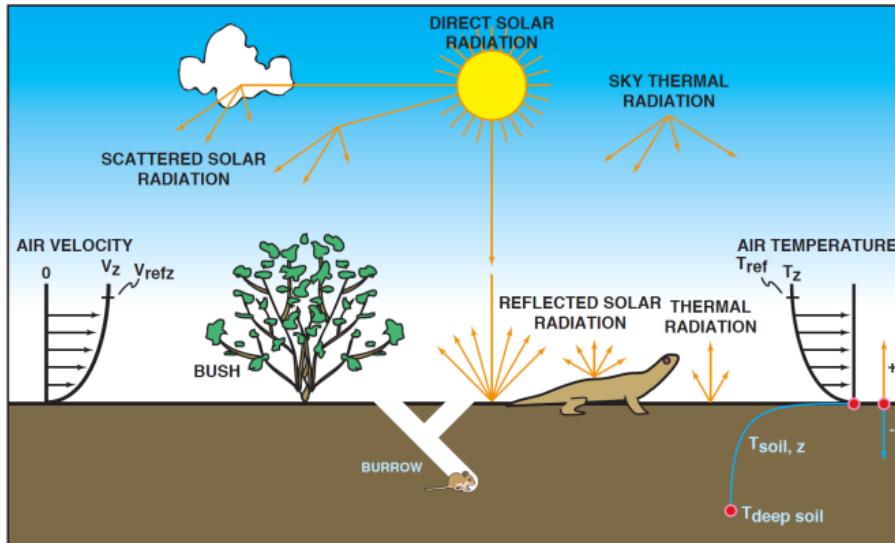
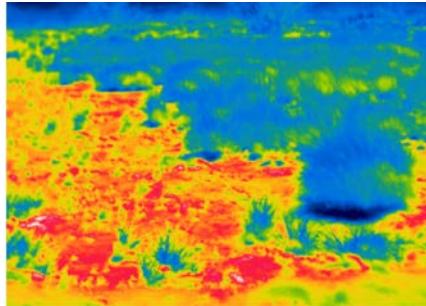


# Mechanistic Niche Models

## Part I

- What is a mechanistic niche model?
  - Thermodynamic basis to the niche
  - The importance of temperature
  - Heat budgets
  - Microclimates
  - Water budgets
  - Play with NicheMapR
- 
- Biophysical Ecology

# NicheMapR – a general system for mechanistic niche modelling



Ecography 40: 664–674, 2017

doi: 10.1111/ecog.02360

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Subject Editor: Brody Sandel. Editor-in-Chief: Miguel Araújo. Accepted 7 August 2016

**NicheMapR – an R package for biophysical modelling: the microclimate model**

Michael R. Kearney and Warren P. Porter

M. R. Kearney ([mrk@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mrk@unimelb.edu.au)), School of BioSciences, The Univ. of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC, Australia. – W. P. Porter, Dept of Zoology, The Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA.

# NicheMapR Google Group

@NicheMapR

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/nichemapr>



Screenshot of the NicheMapR Google Groups page:

The page shows the following content:

- Header:** NicheMapR - Google Groups
- Address Bar:** https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/nichemapr
- Toolbar:** Back, Forward, Home, Refresh, Search, etc.
- Left Sidebar:**
  - Groups (selected)
  - New Question
  - Mark all as read
  - Actions
  - Filters
  - Manage group · Manage members · Members · About
- Content Area:**
  - In May of 2019, we'll be merging and deprecating some of our settings to make group management easier. [Learn more](#)
  - NicheMapR** Shared privately
  - 30 of many topics ★
  - Thanks for visiting the users' group for the R package "NicheMapR". Before submitting a question, please search through the archives of this list for a similar topic. You should also make sure your question isn't already answered in the package documentation - check by typing the R commands:

```
library(NicheMapR)
?microclimate
?micro_global
?ectotherm
```

as well as reading the vignettes:  
[Microclimate Model Tutorial](#)  
[Microclimate Model Theory and Equations](#)  
[Microclimate Input Data](#)  
[Microclimate Model IO](#)  
[Ectotherm Model Tutorial](#)
  - Please provide a self-contained example in your submitted questions.
  - Edit welcome message** **Clear welcome message**
  - Post list:
    - NicheMapR now can compile locally (1) By me - 1 post - 3 views Apr 4
    - understanding WETMASS and Body\_cond at debout. By Agus Camacho - 2 posts - 2 views Apr 2
    - Burrowing and climbing By Simon Tarr - 5 posts - 16 views Mar 15
    - Error in library(NicheMapR) : there is no package called 'NicheMapR' By christopher\_evelyn@ucsb.edu - 5 posts - 44 views 12/5/18
    - Error in get\_pwet By Agus Camacho - 1 post - 1 view Apr 2

# NicheMapR Google Group

@NicheMapR

<https://github.com/mrke/NicheMapR>



Screenshot of a web browser showing the GitHub repository for NicheMapR. The repository has 794 commits, 1 branch, 6 releases, 2 contributors, and is licensed under GPL-3.0. The latest commit was 9 hours ago. The repository is managed by user mrke, updating vignettes. The repository URL is <https://github.com/mrke/NicheMapR>.

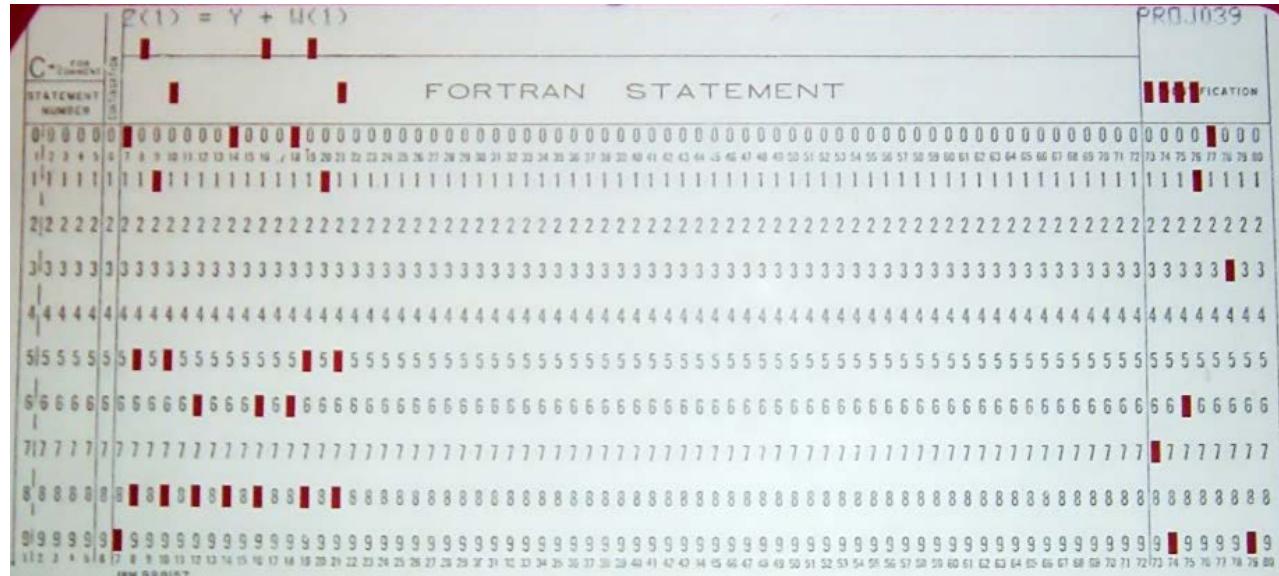
R implementation of Niche Mapper software for biophysical modelling

Branch: master ▾ New pull request

Create new file Upload files Find File Clone or download ▾

File	Commit Message	Time Ago
.Rbuildignore	updating vignettes, adding line to micro_global to allow it to find t...	4 days ago
.gitignore	git ignore	12 hours ago
ALTFCT.csv	developing SCAN hourly example	3 years ago
Campbell and Norman Table 5.1 Ro...	developing SCAN hourly example	3 years ago
R	updated DEB and ectotherm model vignettes, removed some outputs from ...	14 hours ago
data	updating to incl [REDACTED] updated DEB and ectotherm model vignettes, removed some outputs from yearsout (ectotherm model)	2 years ago
inst	updating vignettes	10 hours ago
man	updated DEB and ectotherm model vignettes, removed some outputs from ...	14 hours ago
src	updated DEB and ectotherm model vignettes, removed some outputs from ...	14 hours ago
vignettes	updating vignettes	10 hours ago

# NicheMapR



# Fortran



# Niche Mapper



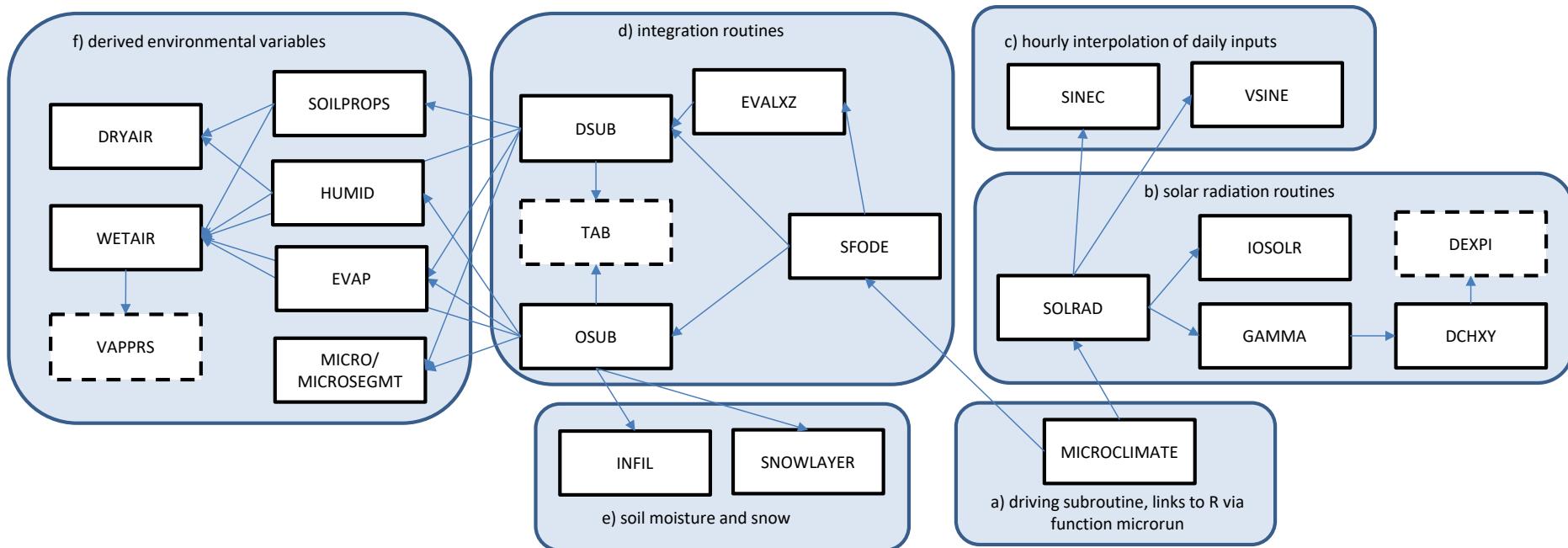
# Microclimate Program Structure

Niche Mapper

Fortran



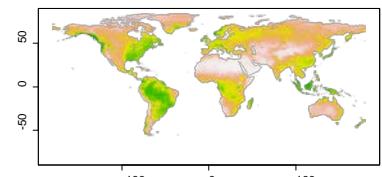
→ NicheMapR



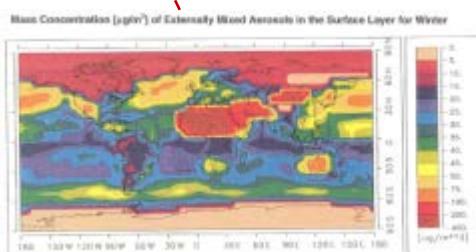
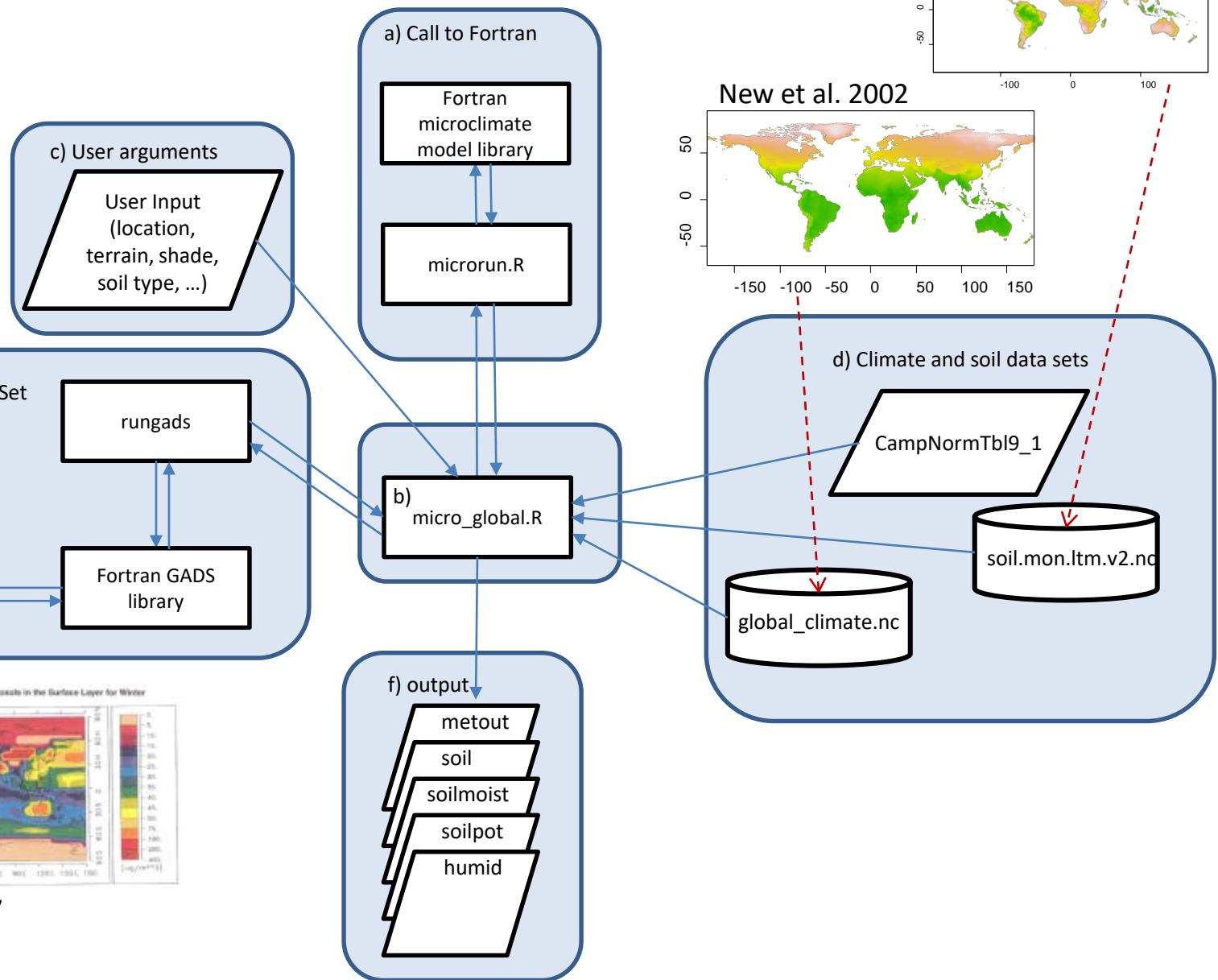
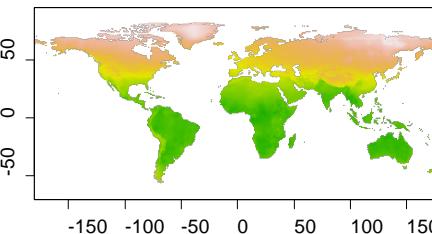


# NicheMapR

CPC soil moisture



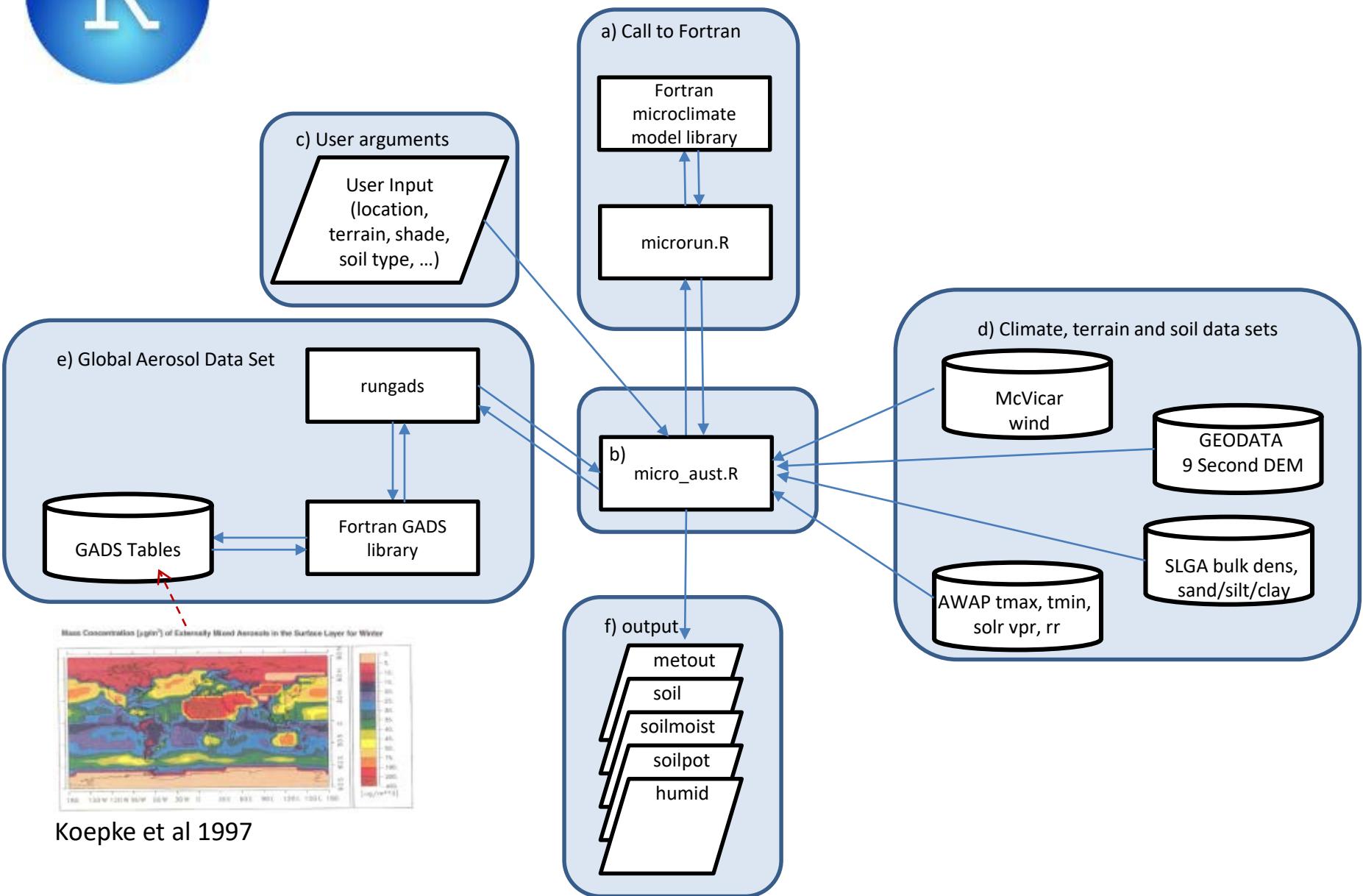
New et al. 2002



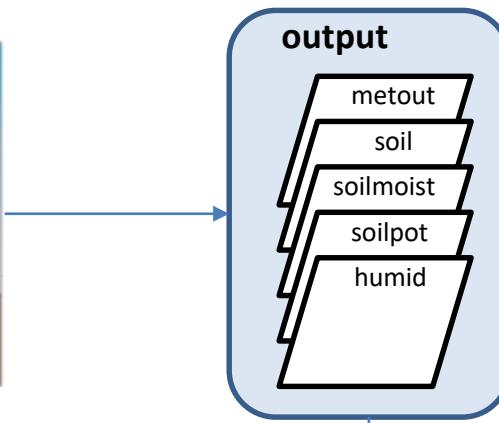
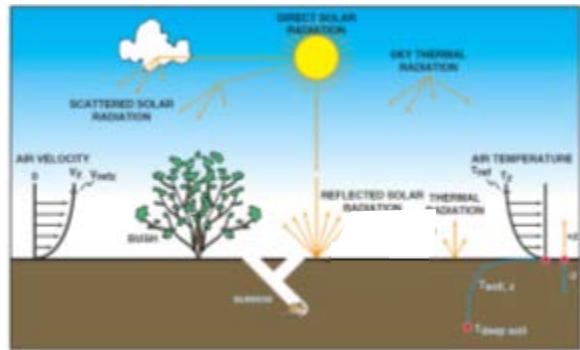
Koepke et al 1997



# NicheMapR



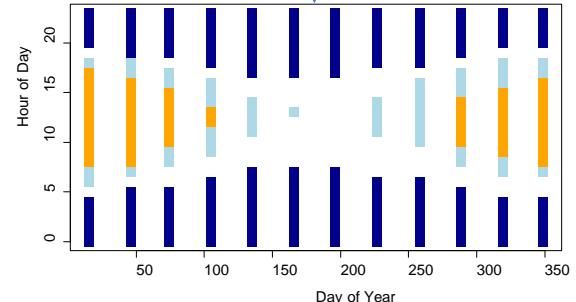
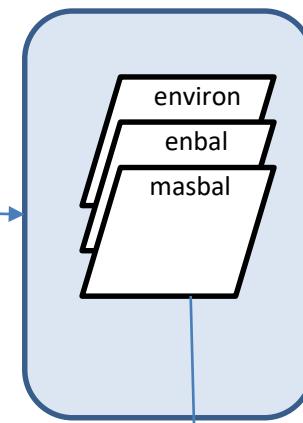
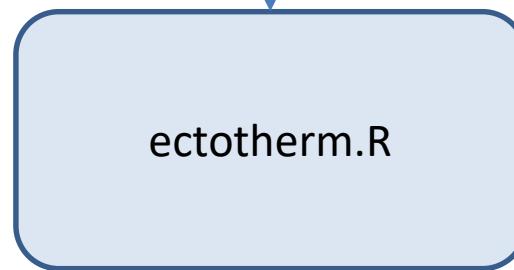
# The Heat and Water Budget Model



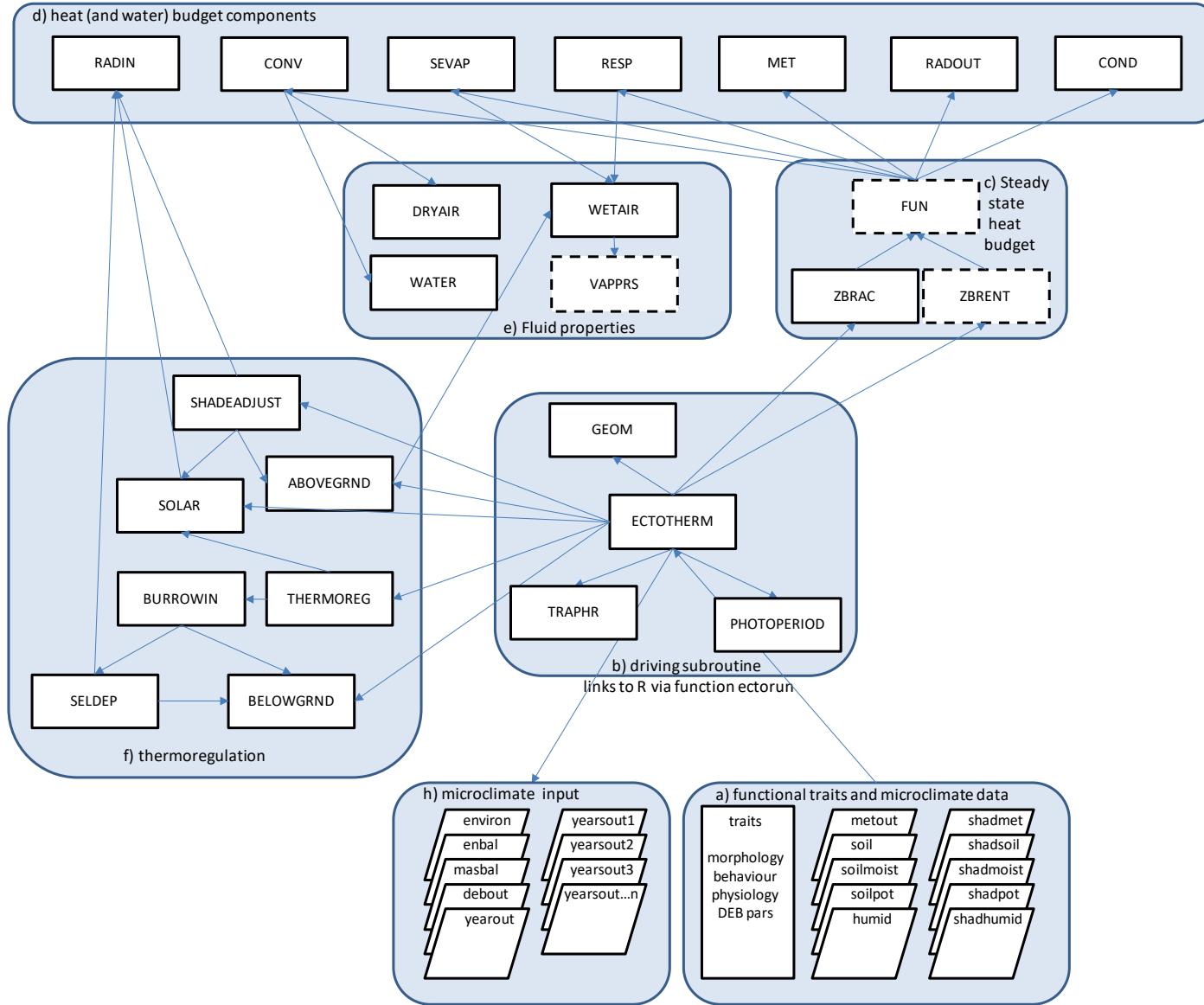
SURROUNDINGS

breeding  
breathing  
temperature  
water

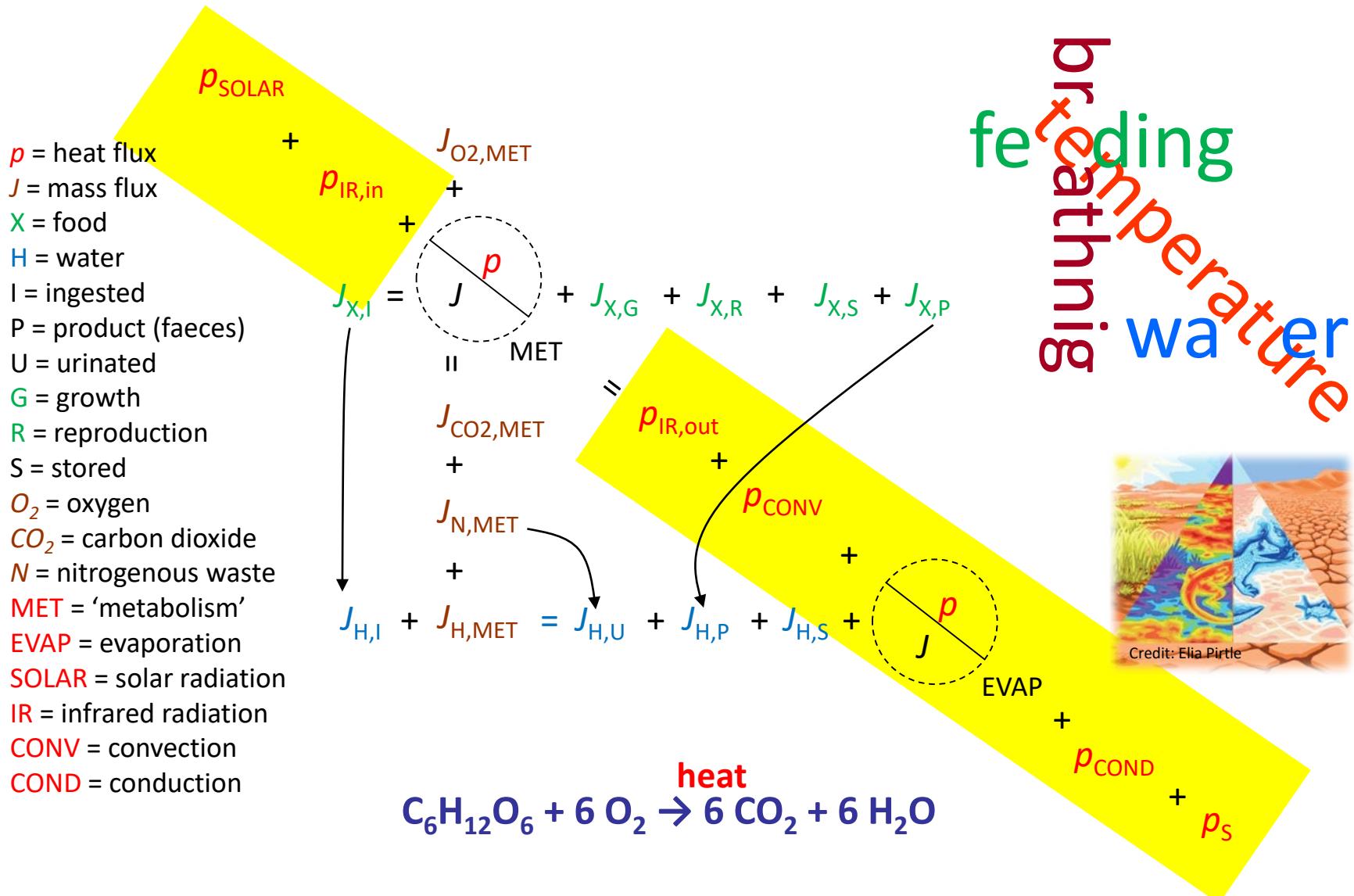
BOUNDARY



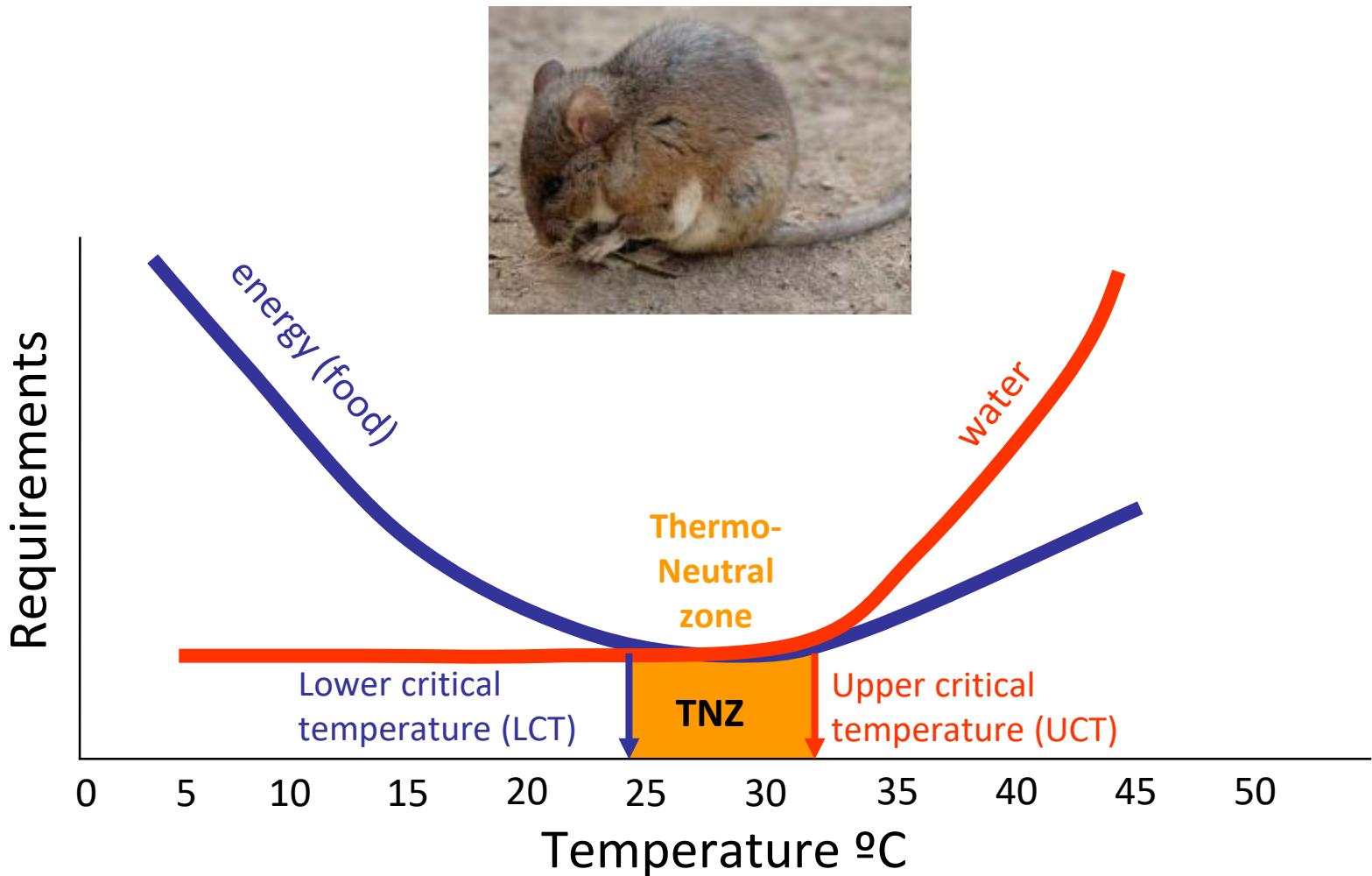
# The Heat and Water Budget Model



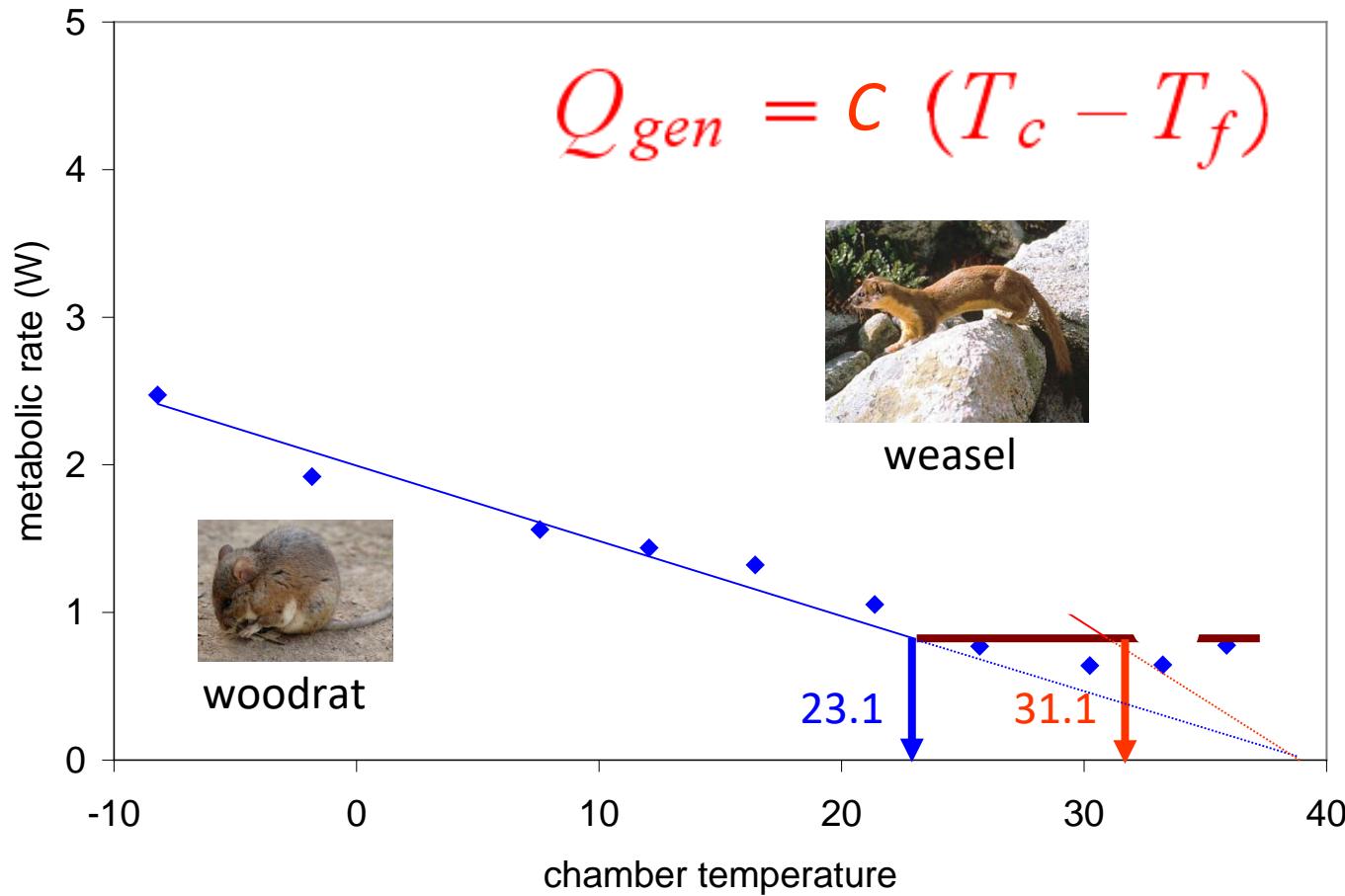
# Thermodynamic basis to the niche



# Biophysical Ecology – Heat Budgets

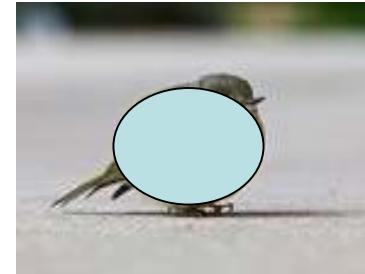
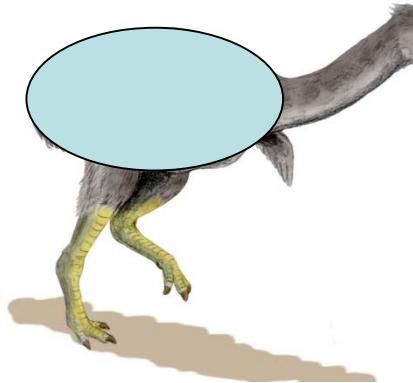
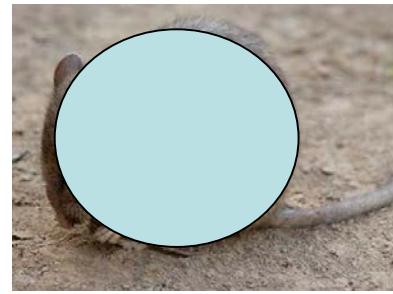
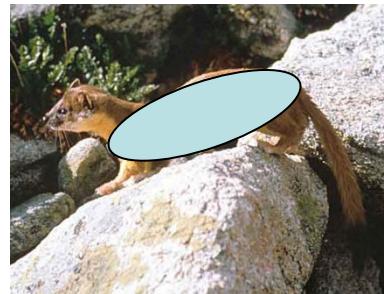
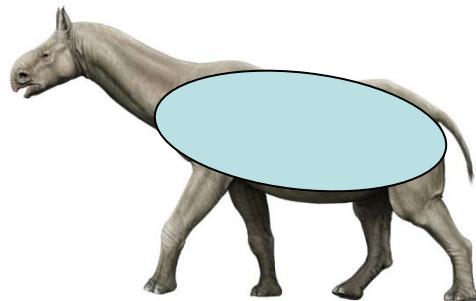


# Biophysical Ecology – Heat Budgets



# Predicting Endotherm Energy and Water Requirements

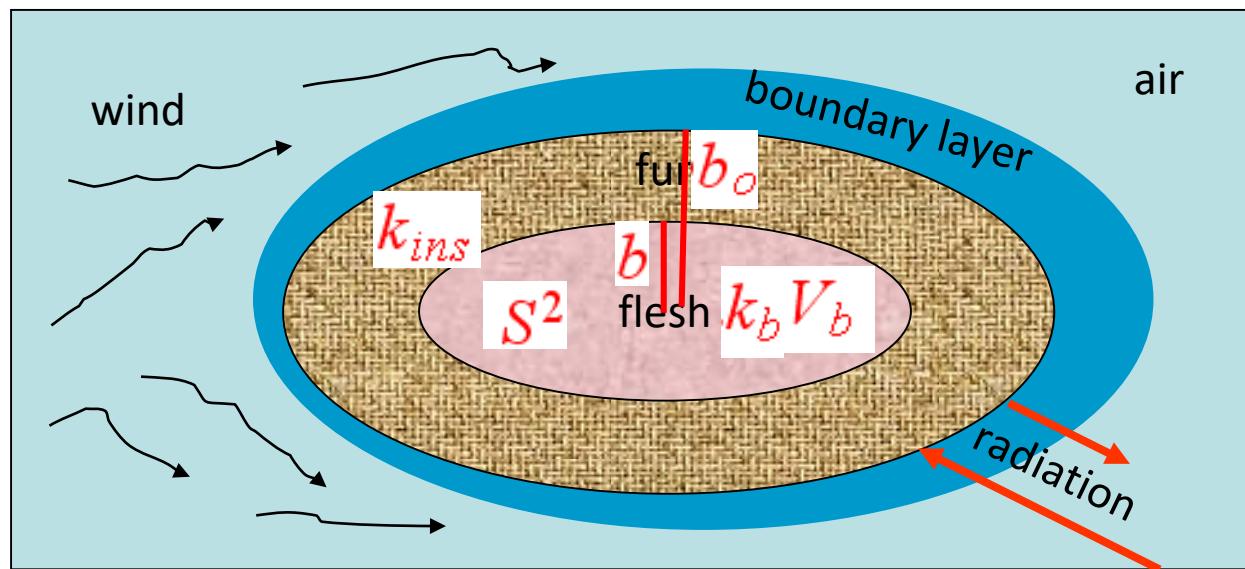
consider an elliptical animal



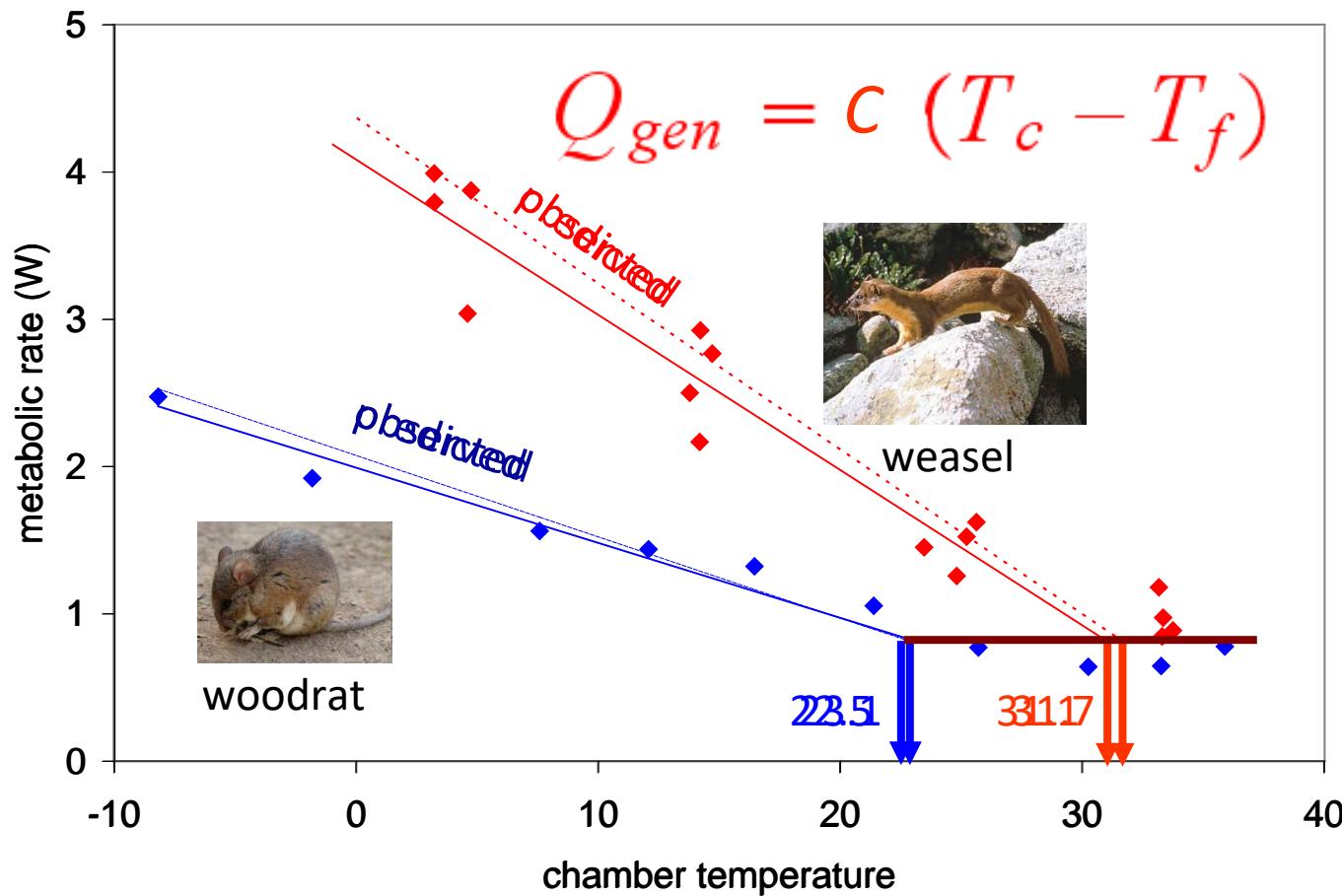
# Predicting Endotherm Energy and Water Requirements

heat energy balance of an endotherm

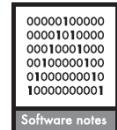
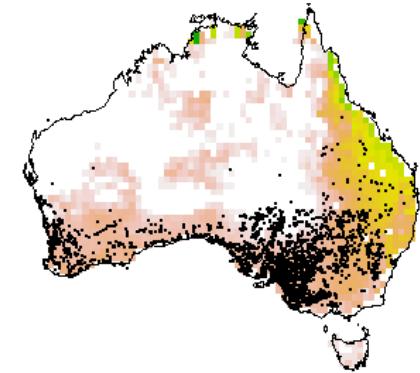
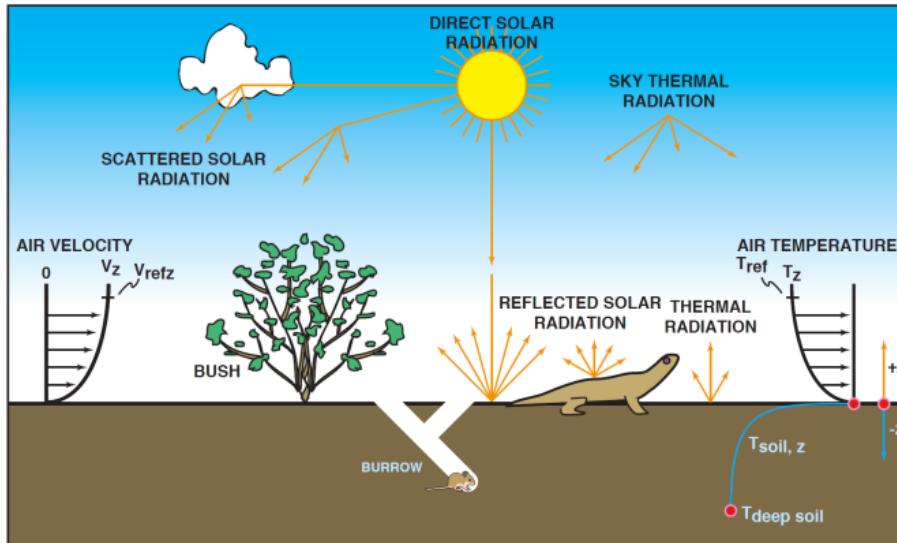
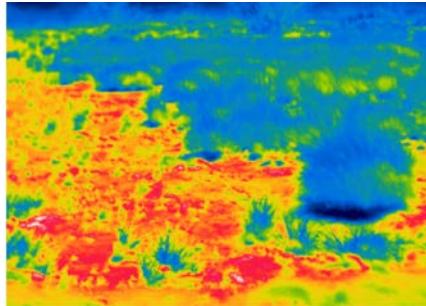
$$Q_{gen} = \left[ Q_{gen} = \frac{C (T_c - T_f)}{\text{body resistance} + \text{fur } R \text{ resistance} + \text{environmental resistance}} \right]$$



# Predicting Endotherm Energy and Water Requirements



# NicheMapR – a general system for mechanistic niche modelling



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**NicheMapR – an R package for biophysical modelling: the microclimate model**

Michael R. Kearney and Warren P. Porter

M. R. Kearney ([mrk@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mrk@unimelb.edu.au)), School of BioSciences, The Univ. of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC, Australia. – W. P. Porter, Dept of Zoology, The Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA.

# Mechanistic Niche Models

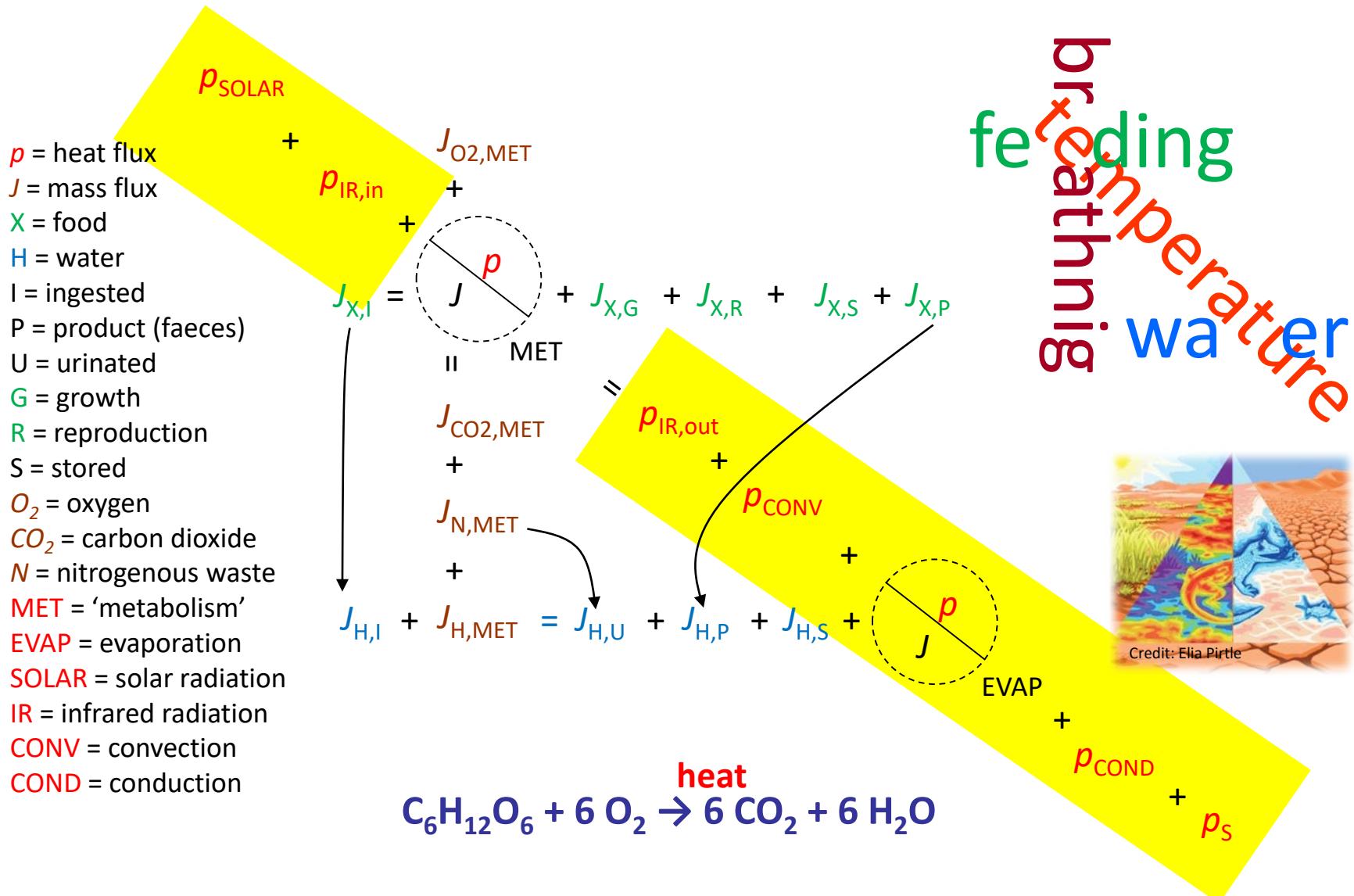
## Part I

- What is a mechanistic niche model?
  - Thermodynamic basis to the niche
  - The importance of temperature
  - Heat budgets
  - Microclimates
  - Water budgets
  - Play with NicheMapR
- 
- Biophysical Ecology

## Part II

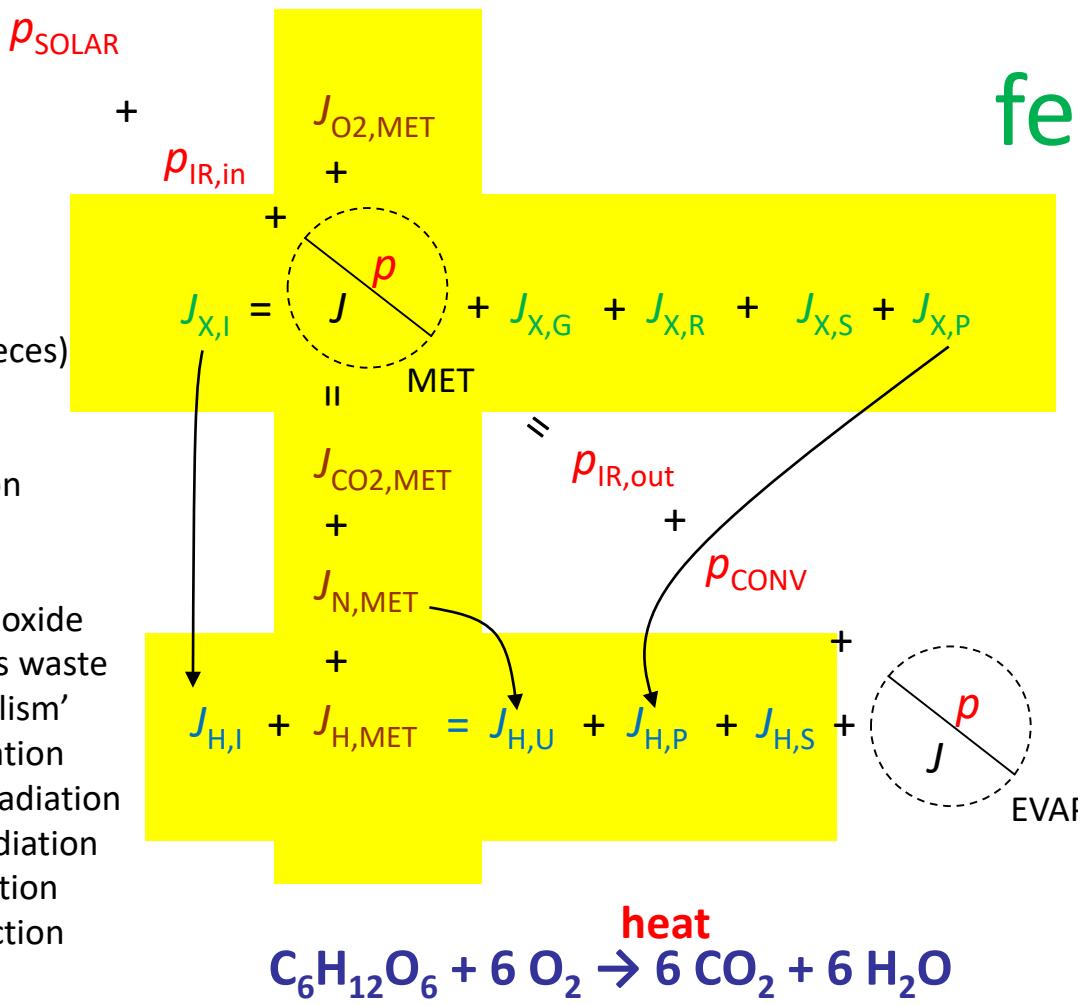
- Connecting to the Dynamic Energy Budget
- Play with NicheMapR
- Inferring climatic constraints
- Nutritional constraints

# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

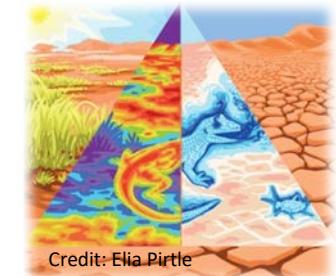


# Thermodynamic basis to the niche

$p$  = heat flux  
 $J$  = mass flux  
 $X$  = food  
 $H$  = water  
 $I$  = ingested  
 $P$  = product (faeces)  
 $U$  = urinated  
 $G$  = growth  
 $R$  = reproduction  
 $S$  = stored  
 $O_2$  = oxygen  
 $CO_2$  = carbon dioxide  
 $N$  = nitrogenous waste  
 $MET$  = 'metabolism'  
 $EVAP$  = evaporation  
 $SOLAR$  = solar radiation  
 $IR$  = infrared radiation  
 $CONV$  = convection  
 $COND$  = conduction

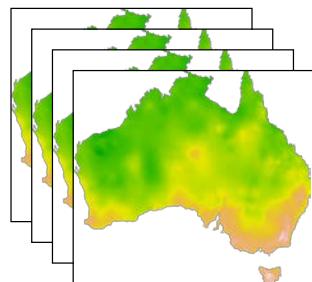


breeding temperature  
 feeding temperature  
 water

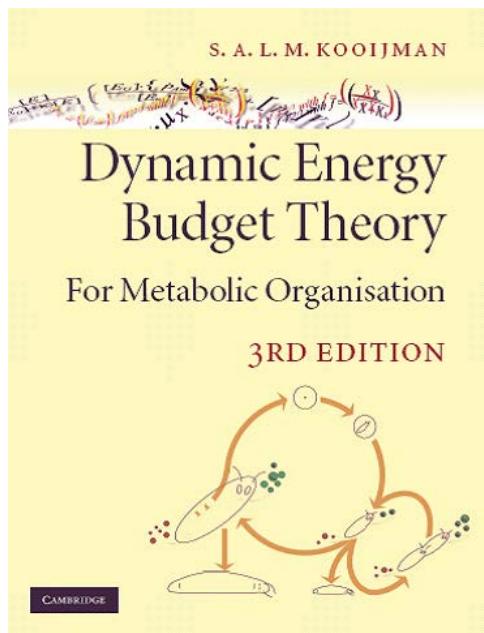
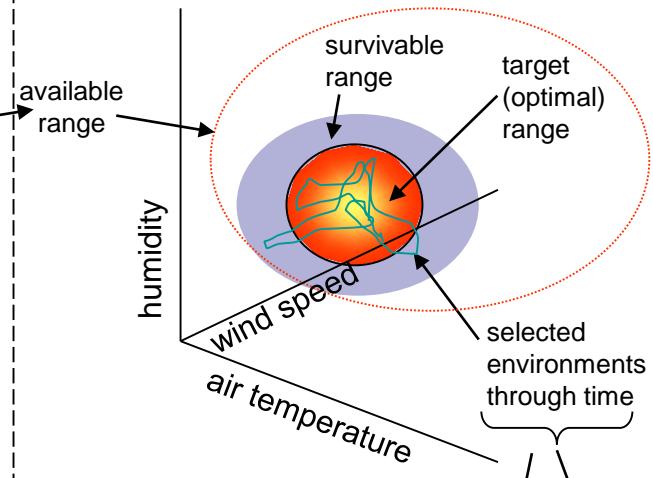


# Connecting to the Dynamic Energy Budget

Environmental Layers



## Biophysical Ecology

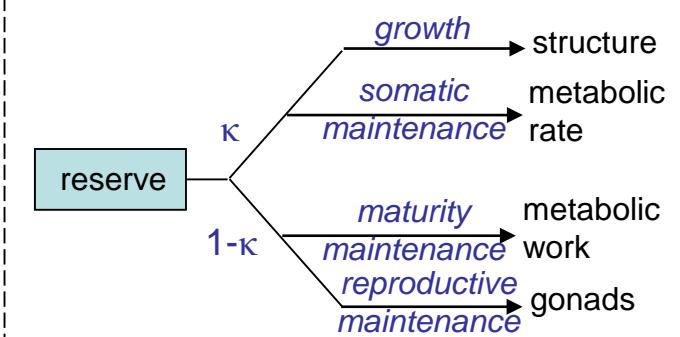


body temp/metabolic rate

physiological rates

water balance

## Dynamic Energy/Mass Budget

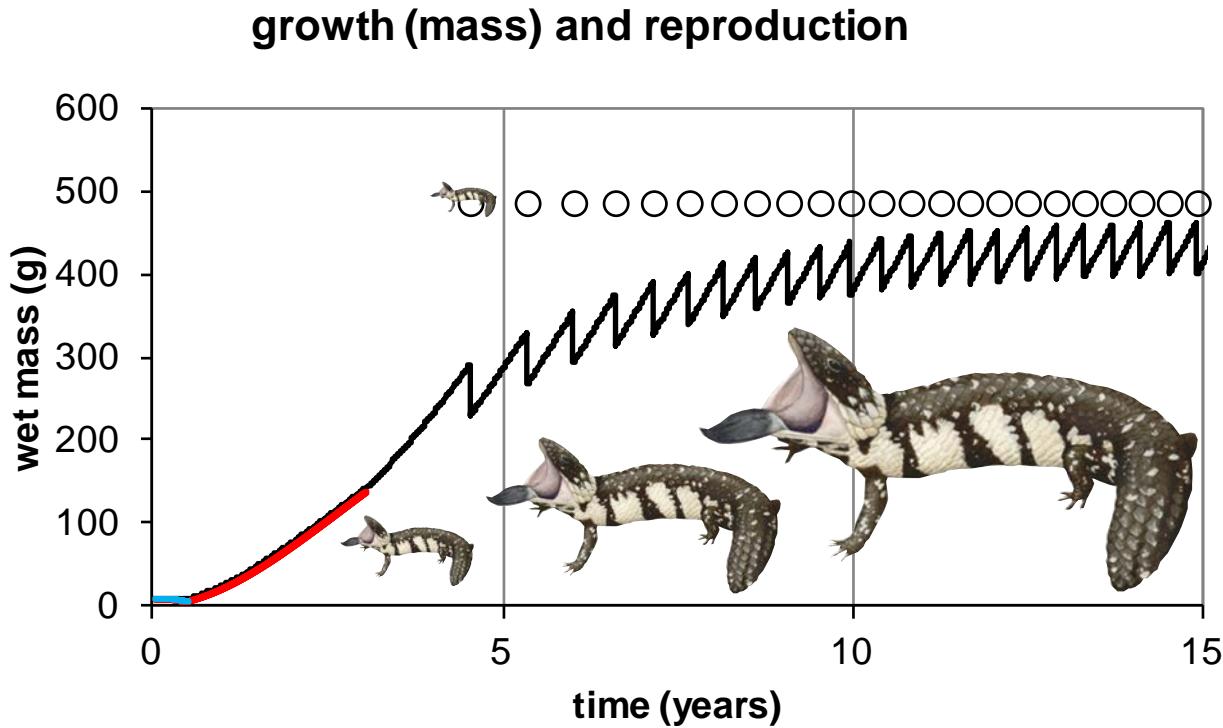


# Connecting to the Dynamic Energy Budget

## A year in the life of the Fence Lizard in Utah

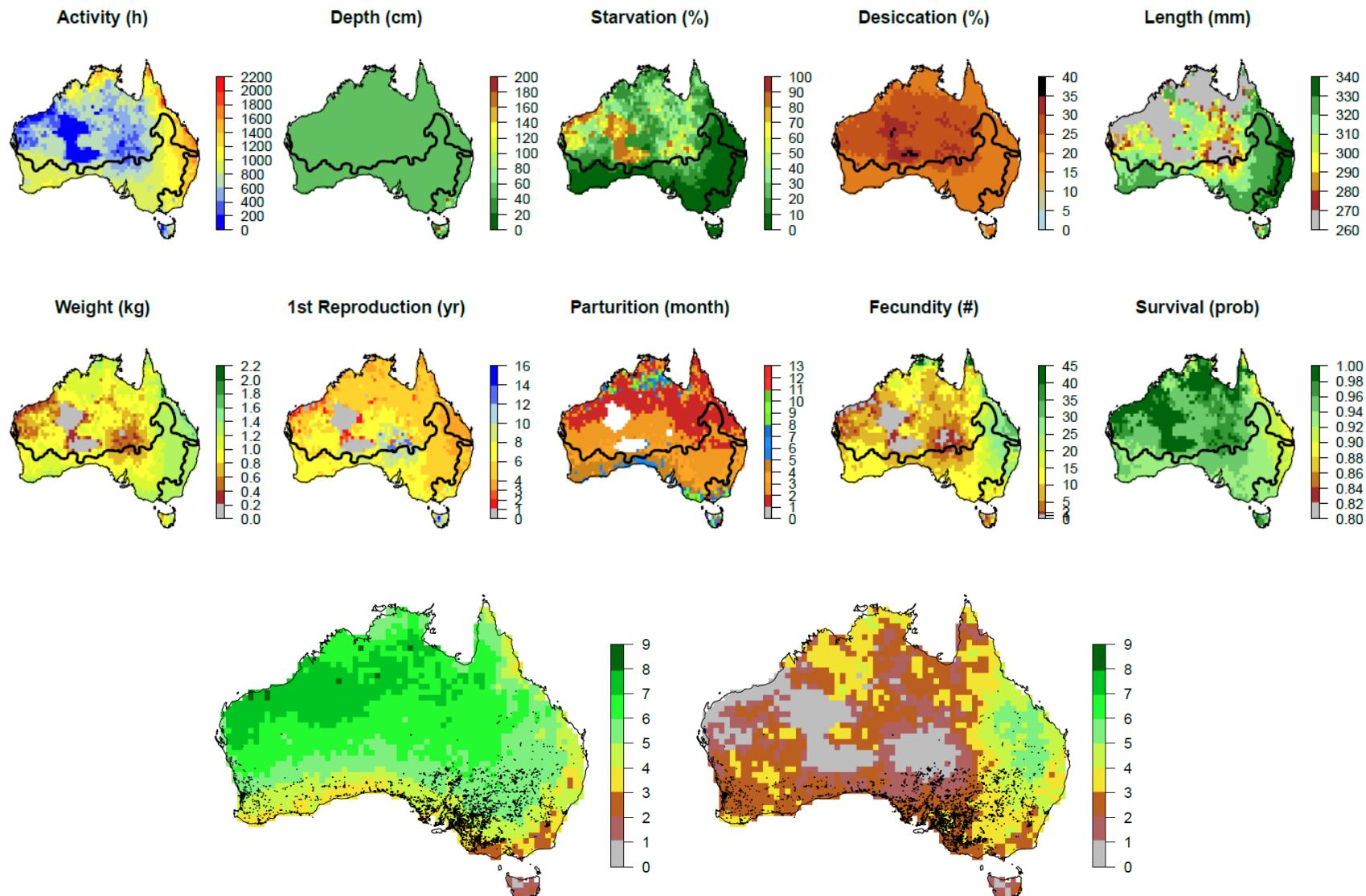


# Inferring climatic constraints



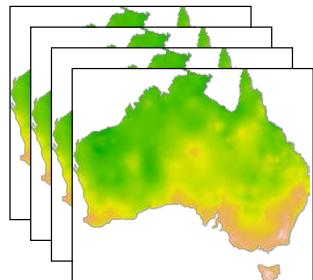
$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 \text{Food} & \text{Structure} & \text{Reserve} & \text{Faeces} \\
 \left( \begin{array}{cccc}
 n_{CX} & n_{CV} & n_{CE} & n_{CP} \\
 n_{HX} & n_{HV} & n_{HE} & n_{HP} \\
 n_{OX} & n_{OV} & n_{OE} & n_{OP} \\
 n_{NX} & n_{NV} & n_{NE} & n_{NP}
 \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c}
 j_X \\
 j_V \\
 j_E + j_{ER} \\
 j_P
 \end{array} \right) & \text{Food} & \text{CO}_2 \text{ H}_2\text{O} \text{ O}_2 \text{ N waste} \\
 & & \text{Structure} & \left( \begin{array}{cccc}
 1 & 0 & 0 & n_{CN} \\
 0 & 2 & 0 & n_{HN} \\
 2 & 1 & 2 & n_{ON} \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & n_{NN}
 \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c}
 j_C \\
 j_H \\
 j_O \\
 j_N
 \end{array} \right) & \text{CO}_2 \\
 & & \text{Reserve} & & & \text{H}_2\text{O} \\
 & & \text{Faeces} & & & \text{O}_2 \\
 & & & = & & \text{N waste}
 \end{array}$$

# Inferring climatic constraints

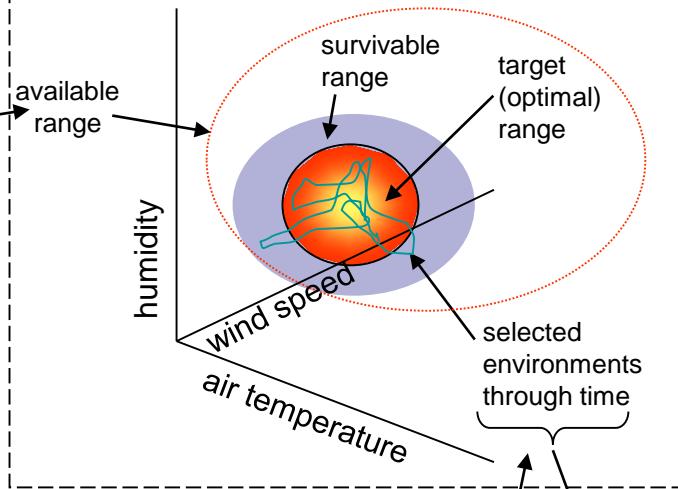


# Nutritional constraints

## Environmental Layers

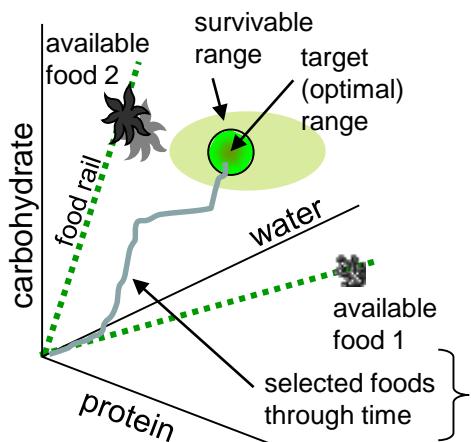


## Biophysical Ecology



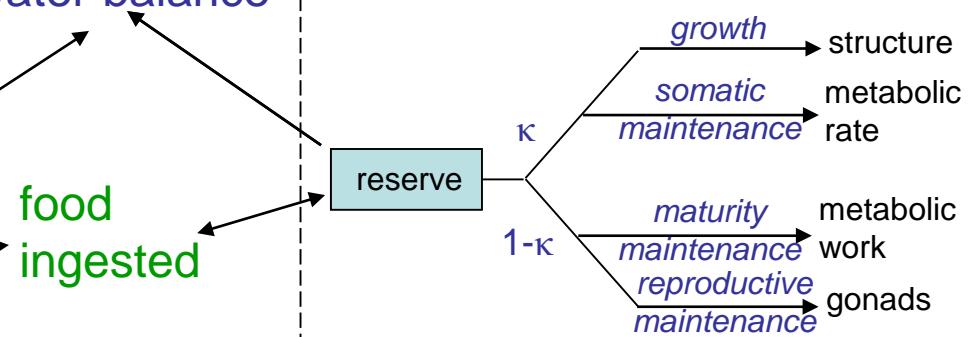
Kearney and Porter TREE 2006  
Kearney et al. PTRS 2010

## Geometric Framework



body temp/metabolic rate

## Dynamic Energy/Mass Budget



# Nutritional constraints

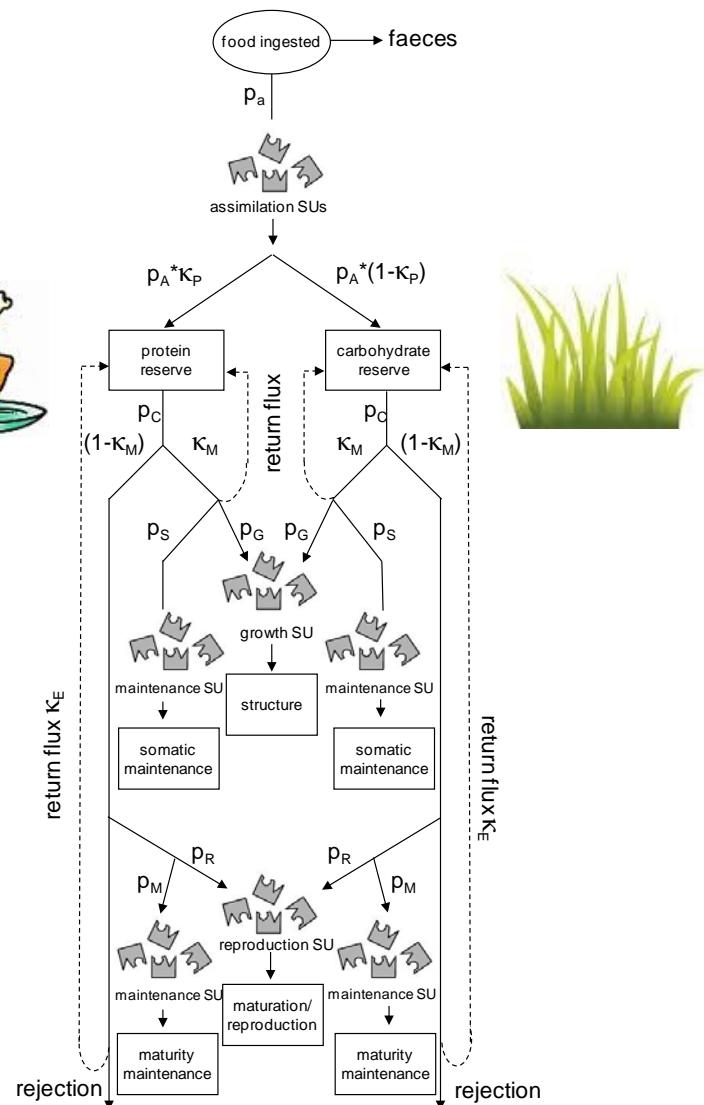
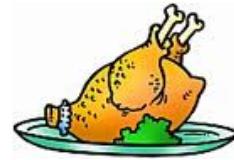
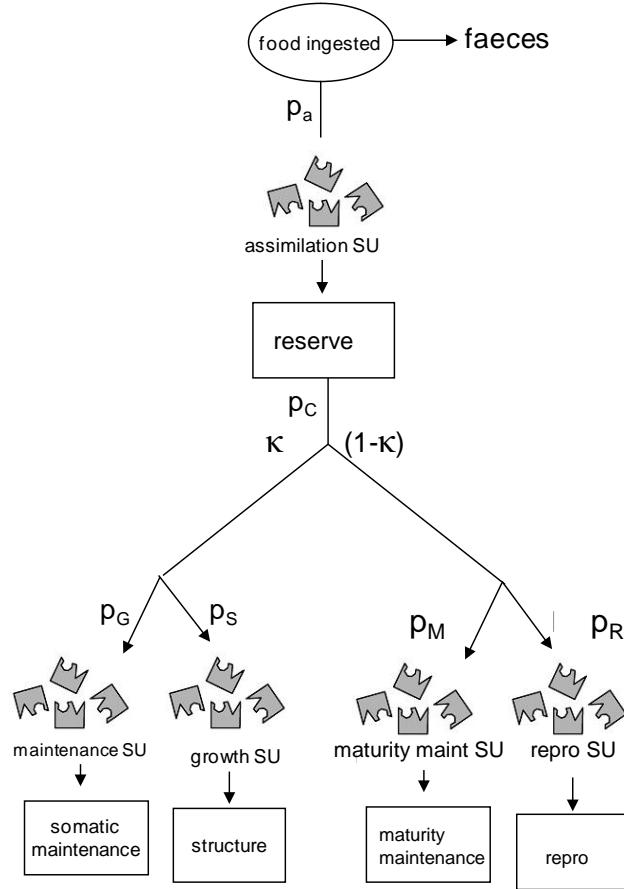
iso221

$$\begin{pmatrix}
 & \text{Food} & \text{Structure} & \text{Reserve} & \text{Faeces} \\
 n_{CX} & n_{CV} & n_{CE} & n_{CP} \\
 n_{HX} & n_{HV} & n_{HE} & n_{HP} \\
 n_{OX} & n_{OV} & n_{OE} & n_{OP} \\
 n_{NX} & n_{NV} & n_{NE} & n_{NP}
 \end{pmatrix}
 \begin{pmatrix}
 \dot{J}_X \\
 \dot{J}_V \\
 \dot{J}_E + \dot{J}_{E_R} \\
 \dot{J}_P
 \end{pmatrix}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{Food} \\
 \text{Structure} \\
 \text{Reserve} \\
 \text{Faeces}
 \end{array}$$

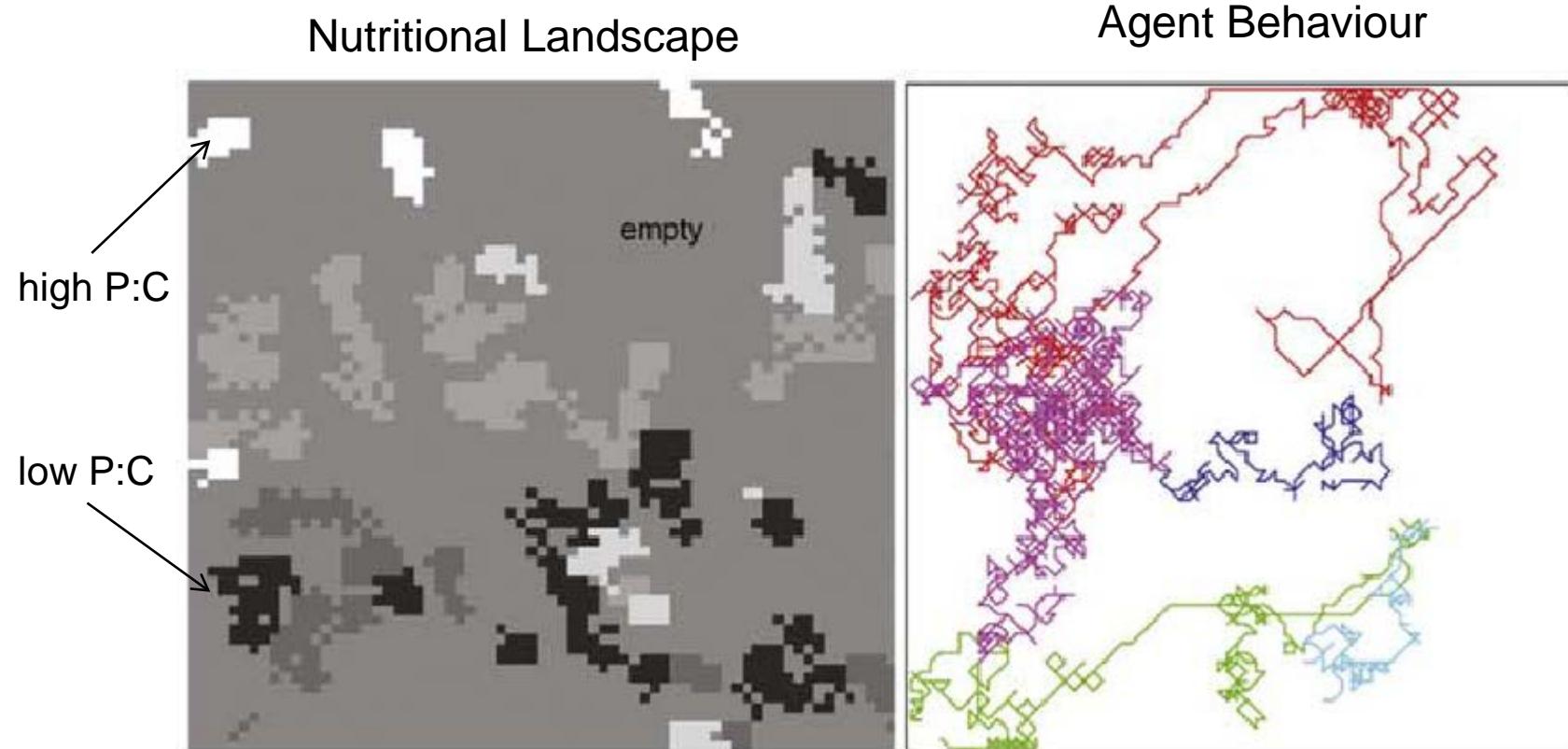
$$\begin{pmatrix}
 & \text{Food 1} & \text{Food 2} & \text{Structure} & \text{Protein reserve} & \text{Non-protein reserve} & \text{Faeces from food 1} & \text{Faeces from food 2} \\
 n_{CX} & n_{CY} & n_{CV} & n_{CE_1} & n_{CE_2} & n_{CP_X} & n_{CP_Y} \\
 n_{HX} & n_{HY} & n_{HV} & n_{HE_1} & n_{HE_2} & n_{HP_X} & n_{HP_Y} \\
 n_{OX} & n_{OY} & n_{OV} & n_{OE_1} & n_{OE_2} & n_{OP_X} & n_{OP_Y} \\
 n_{NX} & n_{NY} & n_{NV} & n_{NE_1} & n_{NE_2} & n_{NP_X} & n_{NP_Y}
 \end{pmatrix}
 \begin{pmatrix}
 \dot{J}_X & \dot{J}_Y & \dot{J}_V & \dot{J}_{E_1} + \dot{J}_{E_{1R}} & \dot{J}_{E_2} + \dot{J}_{E_{2R}} & \dot{J}_{P_X} & \dot{J}_{P_Y}
 \end{pmatrix}^T
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{Food 1} \\
 \text{Food 2} \\
 \text{Structure} \\
 \text{Protein reserve} \\
 \text{Non-protein reserve} \\
 \text{Faeces (food 1)} \\
 \text{Faeces (food 2)}
 \end{array}$$

# Nutritional constraints

iso221

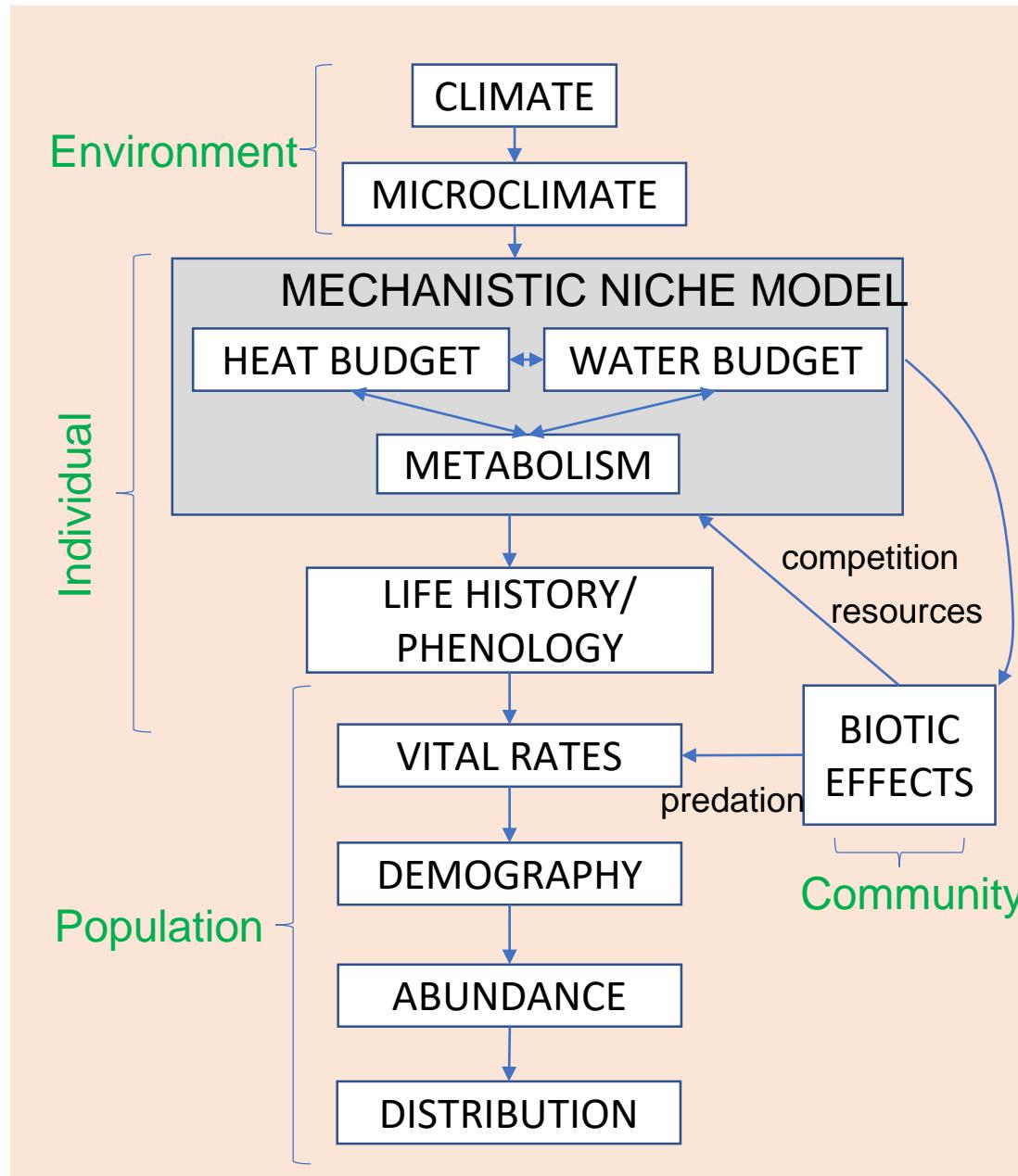
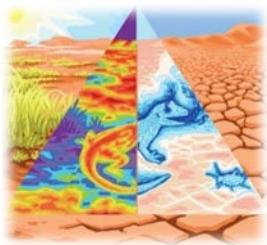


# Nutritional constraints



- Preference behaviour/targets will change with ontogeny

# Mechanistic Niche Models



feeding  
breathing  
temperature  
water