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**Timothée Poisot\*** (tim@poisotlab.io), Montréal, QC H2V2S9, Canada. *The small data era of ecology.*

In addition to its roots in natural history, ecology is becoming an increasingly computational science. Whereas other natural sciences (physics, genomics, chemistry) have to deal with "big data", ecologists are facing a different challenge altogether: because biodiversity is a complex object, and because its sampling in the field is costly and time-consuming, ecologists must deal with low-volume, high-noise, heterogeneous datasets. Yet this does not mean that data-intensive ecological science is currently an unreachable goal: I will present case studies of reconstructing "synthetic" datasets, and showcase how these can help address questions at scales that are too large to be sampled over the course of a lifetime. (Received September 22, 2015)