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Conservation of adaptive genetic diversity: insights & challenges

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Genetic methods and information have assumed increasingly important role in conservation and management of wildlife. Most of the genetic data available for management and decision-making has traditionally consisted of information gained from neutral molecular markers, but more recently, data on ecologically important quantitative traits and genes coding these traits have gained increasing interest. In particular, comparative studies of neutral marker gene and quantitative trait divergence have provided interesting insights on conservation and management decision, but some practical and technical difficulties limit the utility of such comparisons. In my presentation, I aim to provide a short overview of what is currently known regarding the variation in genes coding quantitative traits among different populations of the same species. I will do this by focusing on comparative studies of quantitative genetic and marker gene differentiation, and reflect upon their utility in conservation and management context.