

March Mammal Madness: Survival strategies of mammals living in the heat and cold

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Austin Peay State University



2023 MARCH
MAMMALS
MADNESS

“If you’re learning, you’re winning!”

Results

Your Name Goes Here

MIGHTY STRIPES

Okapi	1	1. Okapi
Four-Striped Grass Mouse	16	
Striped Polecat	8	9. Giant-Striped
Giant-Striped Mongoose	9	
Side-Striped Jackal	5	5. Side-Striped J
Striped Possum	12	
Striped Dolphin	4	4. Striped Dolphin
Chequered elephant Shrew	13	
Wildcat	6	11. Highland Stre
Highland Streaked Tenrec	11	
Striped Hyena	3	3. Striped Hyena
Fire-Footed Rope Squirrel	14	
Striped Rabbit	7	7. Striped Rabbit
Numbat	10	
Kudu	2	2. Kudu
Badger Bat	15	

WILD CARD WINNER
1 POINT

ROUND 1 WINNERS
1 POINT

Shrew Mole - Bumblebee Bat - Bumblebee Bat

ITTY BITTY COMEBACK CITY

Sea Otter	1	1. Sea Otter
Wild Card Winner	16	
Southern Ringneck Pigeon	8	9. Grasshopper
Grasshopper Mouse	9	
Sibree Dwarf Lemur	5	5. Sibree Dwarf L
Silver Pika	12	
Mara	4	4. Mara
Siberian Chipmunk	13	
Itjaritjari	6	6. Itjaritjari
Silky Anteater	11	
Dik-dik	3	3. Dik Dik
Colo Colo Opossum	14	
Bulldog Bat	7	7. Bulldog Bat
Thor's Hero Shrew	10	
Rock Hyrax	2	2. Rock Hyrax
Pygmy Jerboa	15	



with **Whole Grain Guaranteed**



Nutrition Highlights



THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

MARCH
MAMMAL
MADNESS
CHAMPION
2023



WOLVERINE

WHEATIES

YOU BETTER EAT YOUR WHEATIES™

TOASTED WHOLE WHEAT FLAKES

Wolverine by Olivia Pellicer

MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES

ORNAMENT INFO:

des.asu.edu/MarchMammalMadness
*Includes many non-mammal species

Golden Eagle	1	1 Golden Eagle
Spongilla Fly	16	
Puffer Fish	9	8 Velvet Octopus
		9 Puffer Fish
Palaeocastor	5	5 Palaeocastor
Trapdoor Spider	12	
Lungfish	4	4 Lungfish
Tent-Making Bat	13	
Goanna	6	6 Goanna
Rufous Hornero	11	
Homo Habilis	3	3 Homo habilis
Bee	14	
Montezuma Oropendola	7	7 Montezuma Oropendola
New Caledonian Crow	10	10 New Caledonian Crow
Cathedral Termite	2	2 Cathedral Termite
Dung Beetle	15	

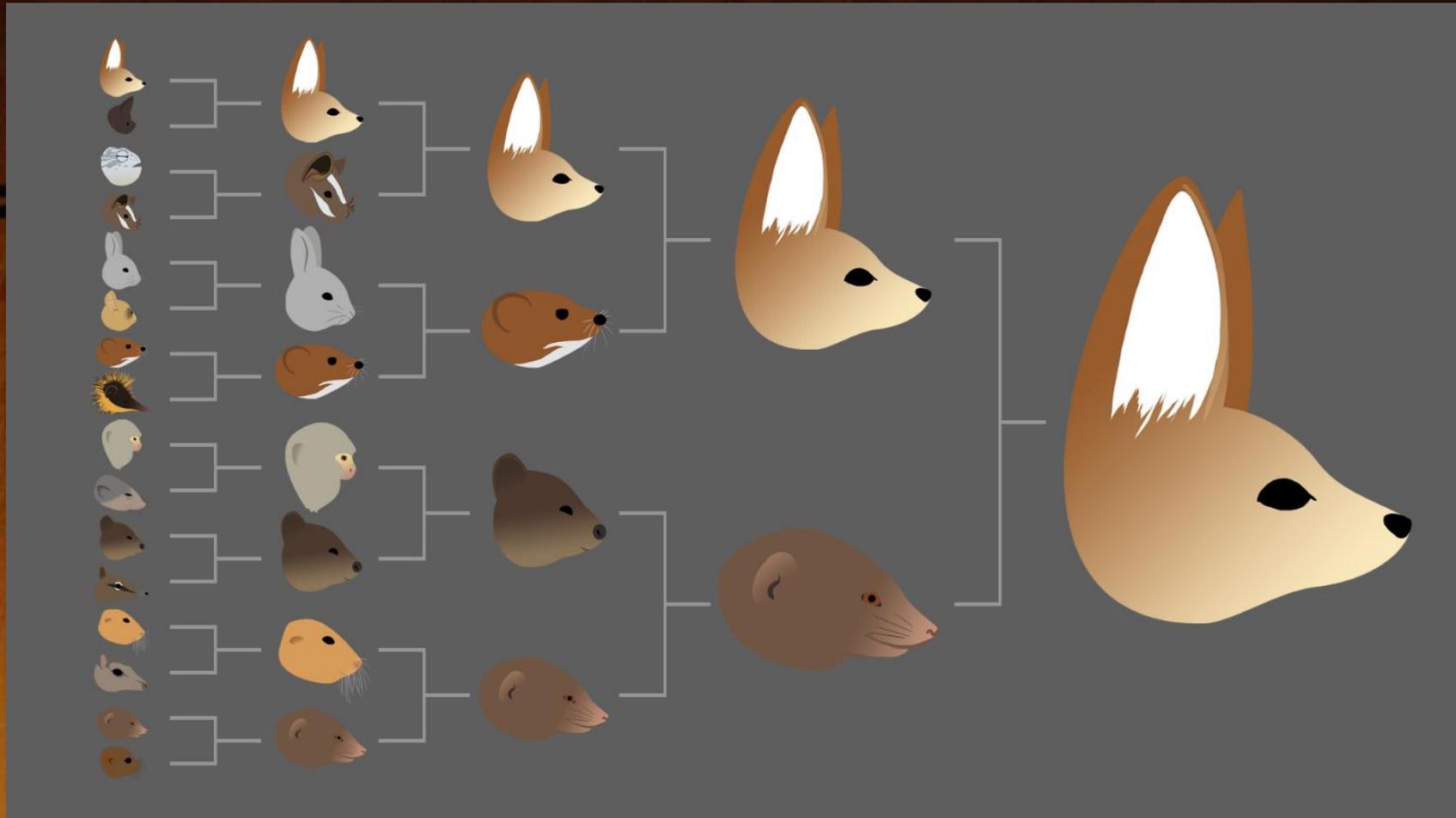
ROUND 1 WINNERS
1 POINT

Emperor Penguin	1	1 Emperor Penguin
Lined Seahorse	16	
Owl Monkey	8	8 Owl Monkey
Casplan Tern	9	
Pacific Spiny Lumpsucker	5	5 Pacific Spiny Lumpsucker
Peacock Wrasse	12	
Siamang	4	4 Siamang
Darwin's Frog	13	
Bat-Eared Fox	6	6 Bat-Eared Fox
Spotted Sandpiper	11	
Wolverine	3	3 Wolverine
Giant Water Bug	14	
Dyak Fruit Bat	7	7 Greater Flamingo
Dyak Fruit Bat	10	10 Dyak Fruit Bat
Greater Rhea	2	2 Greater Rhea
Three-Spined Stickleback	15	

ANIMAL ENGINEERS

DAD BODS

MMM Survival Brackets





Phocidae
true seals

Ursidae
bears, giant
pandas

Canidae
canines - dogs,
foxes, coyotes,
wolves, jackals

Pholidota
pangolins

Soricidae
shrews

Procyonidae
raccoons, coatis

Mephitidae
skunks

Ailuridae
red panda

PINNIPEDIA

CANIFORMIA

CARNIVORA
specialized shearing teeth

Prionodontidae
Asiatic linsangs

Nandiniidae
African Palm Civet

FELIFORMIA

Felidae
felines

Viverridae
genets, oiyans, civets

Mammals are morphologically diverse



How do they compare?

- Amphibians: 7,000 species
- Reptiles: 8,950 species
- Birds: 10,000 species
- Fish: 25,000 species
- >350,000 described plants
- >1,000,000 described insects

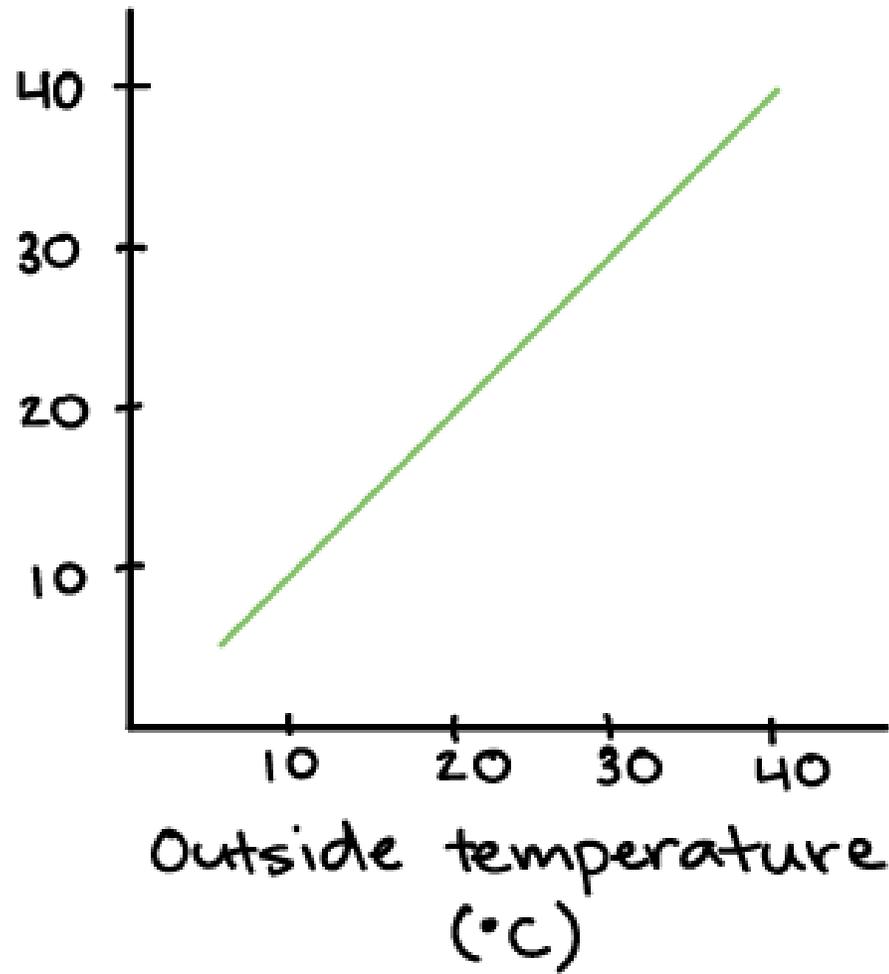


Why are they not as diverse?

- High energetic costs due to endothermy
- Endothermy: generates internal heat through metabolism to [usually] maintain an consistent internal body temperature
- “*warm-blooded*”

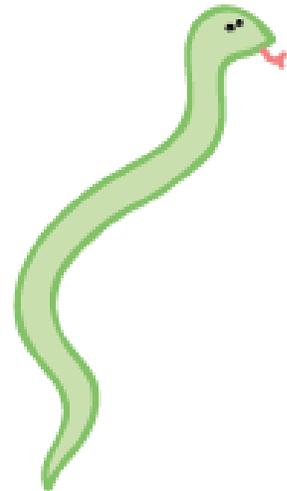


Animal's
internal
temperature
(°C)

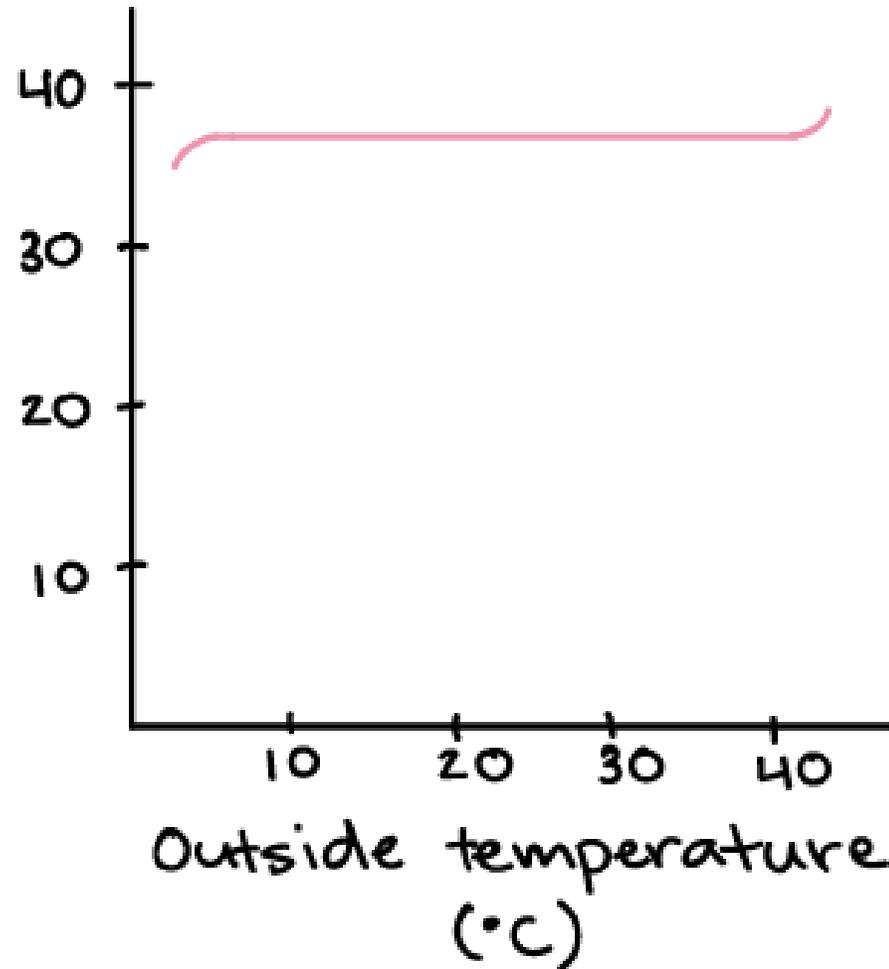


ECTOTHERMS

like the snake have a
body temperature
that changes with
the temperature
of the environment



Animal's
internal
temperature
(°C)



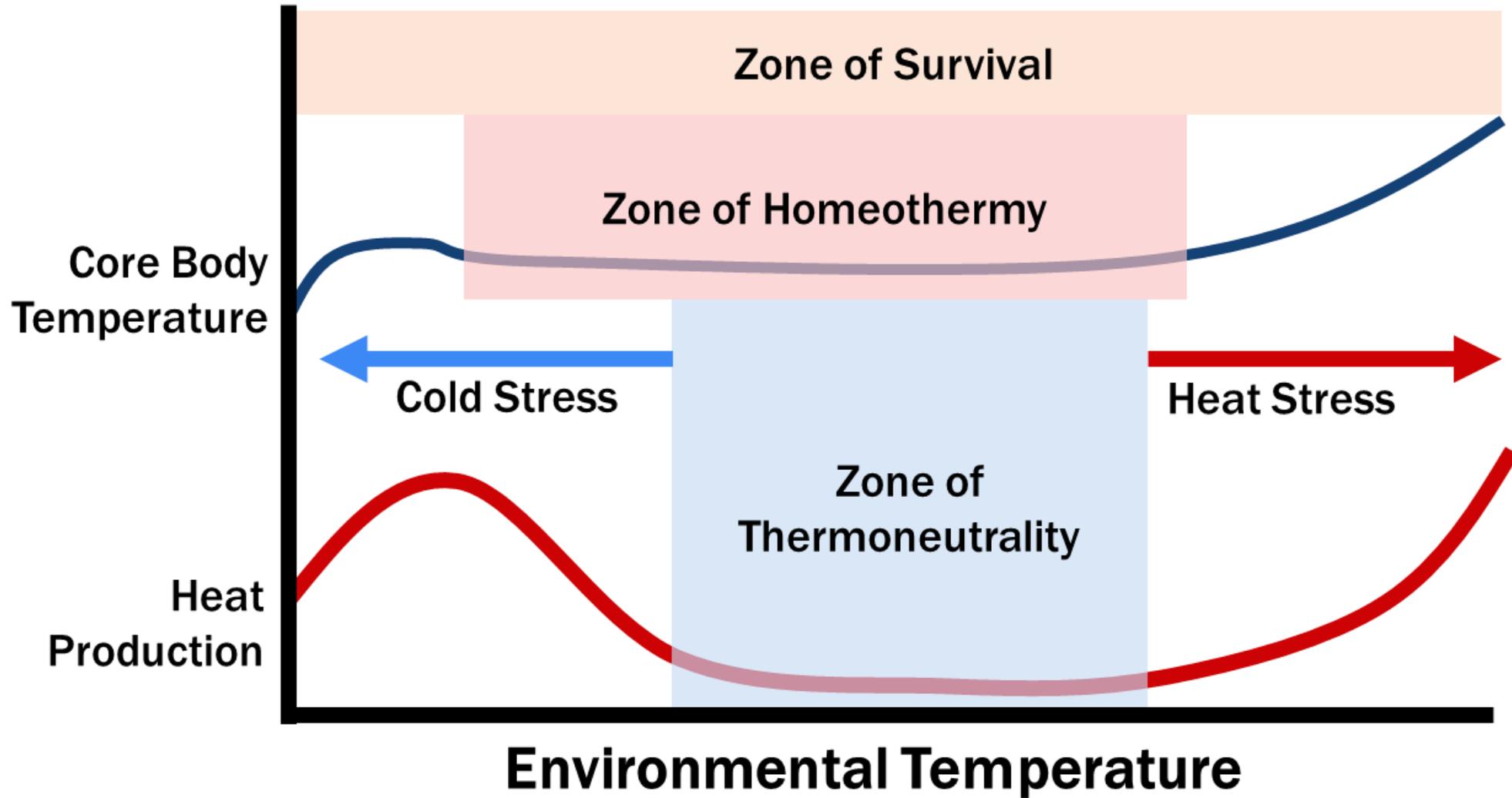
ENDOTHERMS
like the mouse
generate metabolic
heat to maintain
internal temperature



Why did endothermy evolve?

- Organisms have limits to what body temperatures allow life
- Thermal independence from outside temperatures
- Can occupy habitats that exclude ectotherms





Environment

When temperatures exceed limits:

Thermoregulation:

Morphology

Physiology

Behavior

Animal



$$\text{Heat loss/gain} = \frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{ Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$

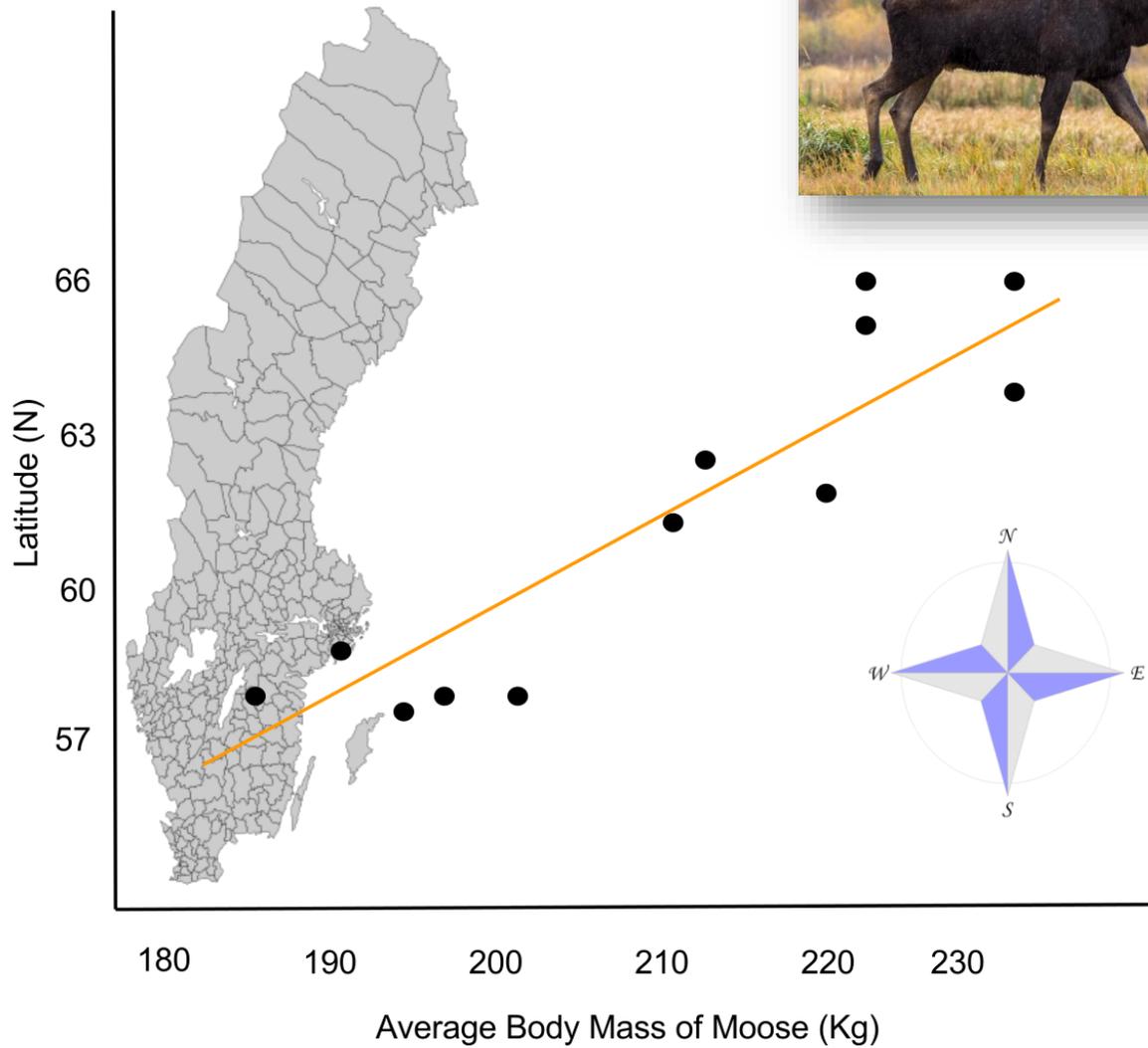


*Body area over which
heat is lost/absorbed*



$$\text{Heat loss/gain} = \frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{ Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$





Surface Area: Bergmann's Rule

Species groups show increased body size farther from the Equator

Large bodied animals are better at conserving heat due to lower surface-to-volume ratio



Arctic hares (*Lepus arcticus*)
live in arctic environments



Snowshoe hares
(*L. americanus*) live
in cold environments



Black-tailed jackrabbits
(*L. californicus*) live in
warm environments



Antelope jackrabbits (*L. alleni*)
live in desert environments

Surface Area: Allen's Rule

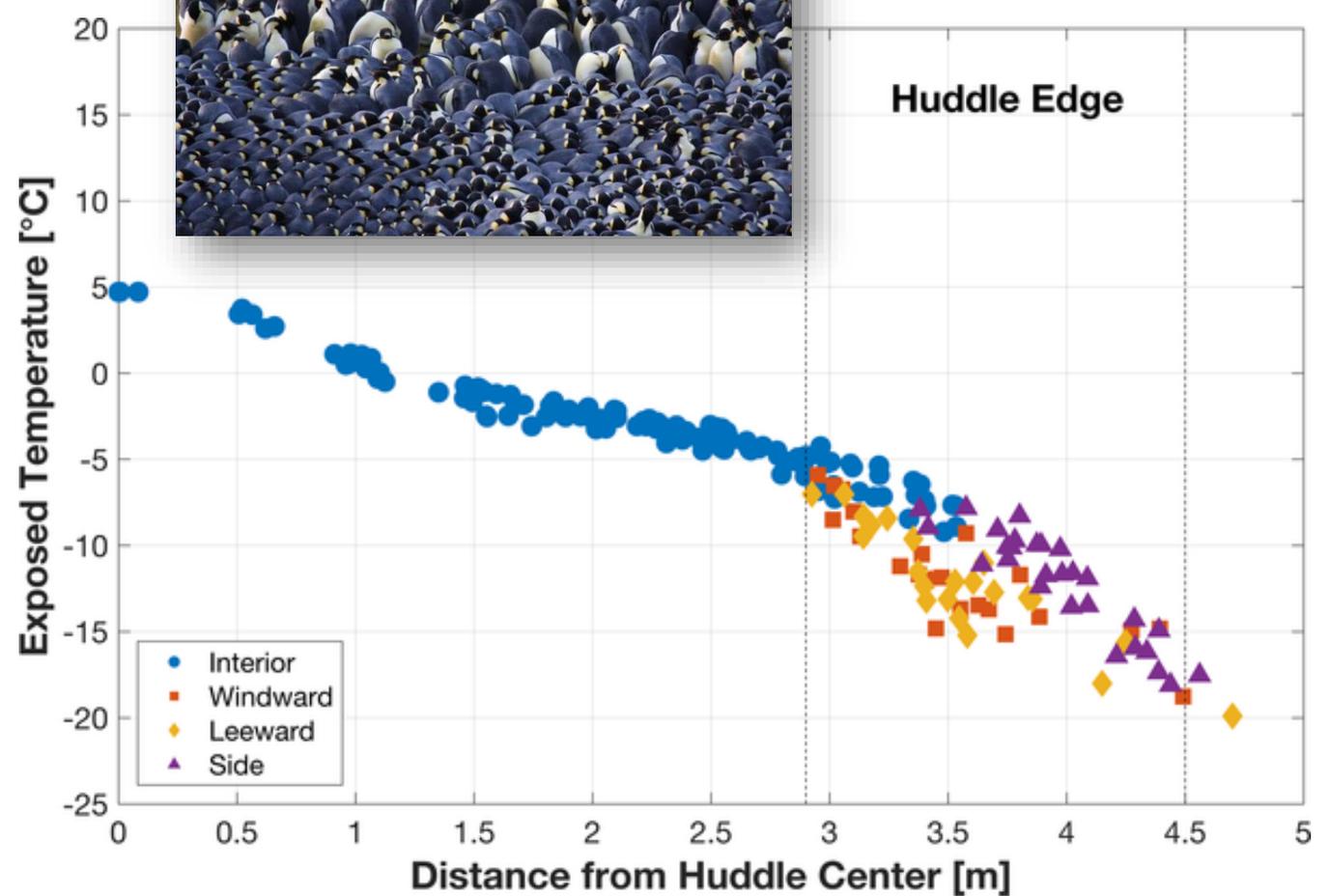
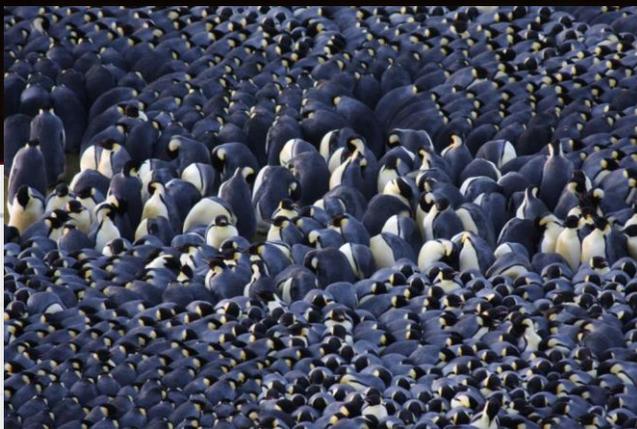
Animals that are adapted to colder climates tend to have smaller limbs and body appendages in comparison to animals that are adapted to more warm climates

*Body area over which
heat is lost/absorbed*

*Difference between body and
environmental temperature*

Heat loss/gain =
$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$





Temperature Difference

Various adaptations, such as huddling, can alter the surface temperature and change the temperature difference for the animal

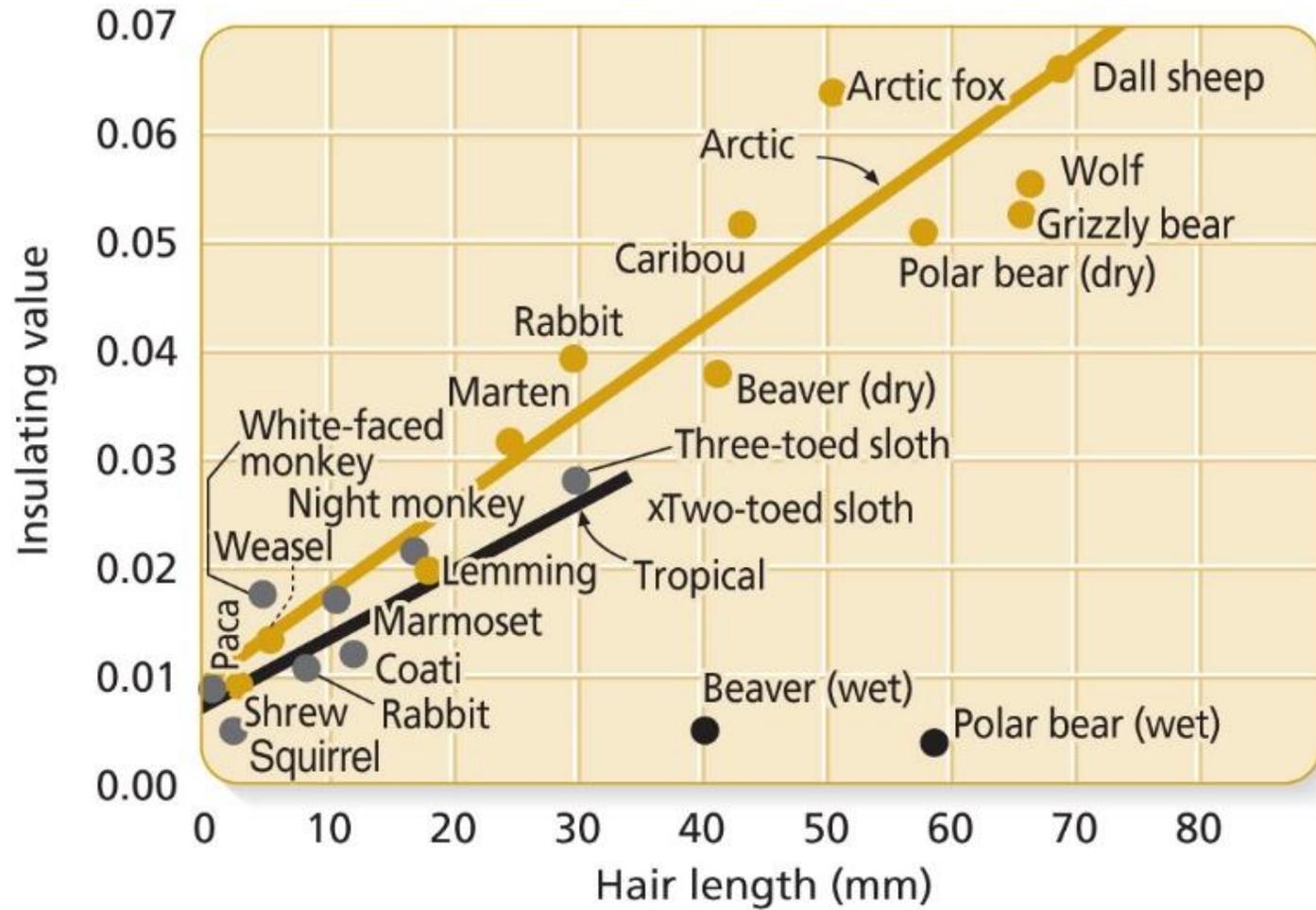
*Body area over which
heat is lost/absorbed*

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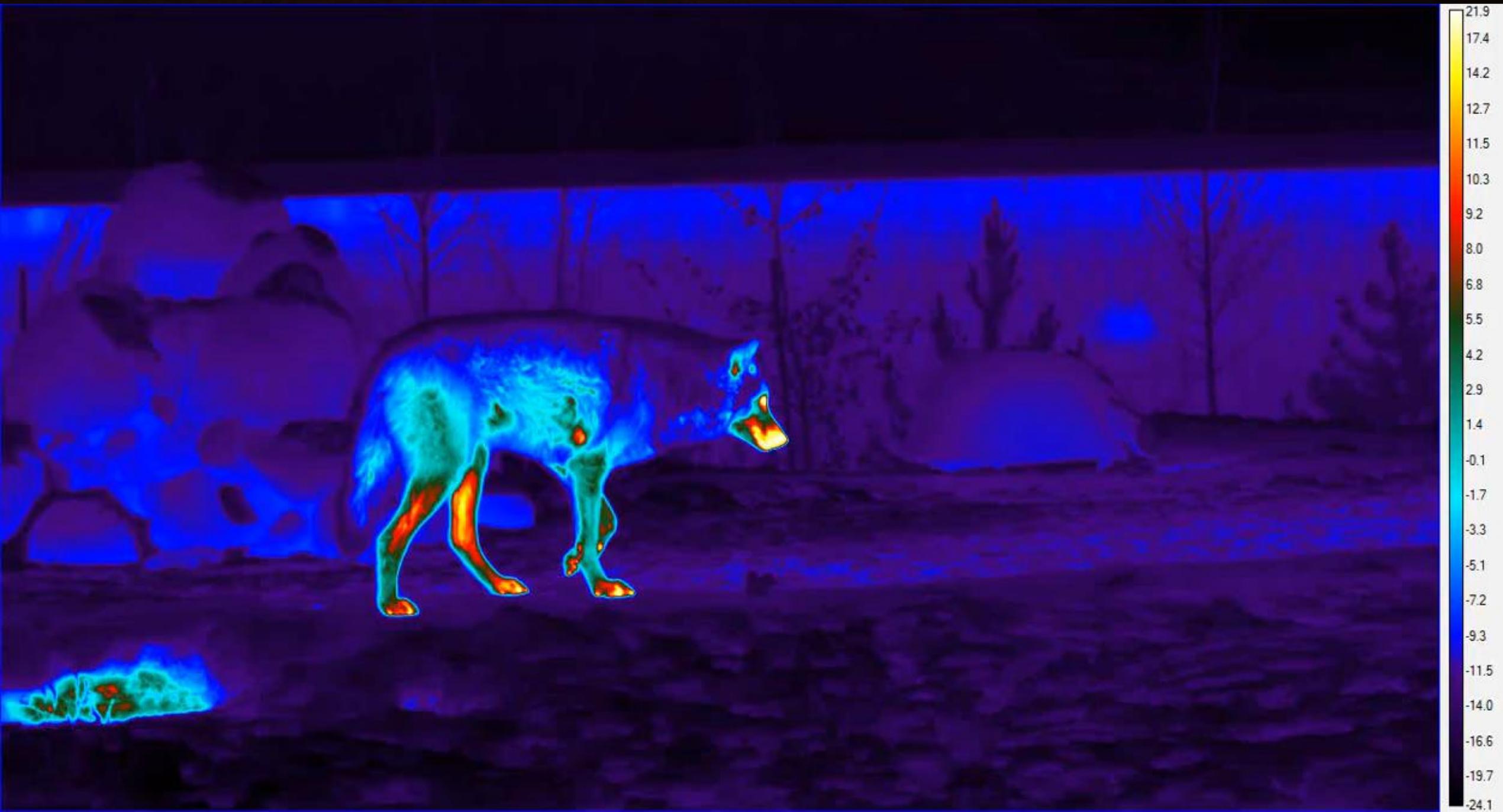
*The ability of fat, blubber, skin,
hair, fur to slow heat loss*





Thermal Resistance

Longer hair length increases insulative value (decreases heat loss) through catching air in between hairs



All About Adaptations

Adaptations are morphological, behavioral, or physiological traits that allow an organism to survive in a particular environment



Cold Weather Adaptations



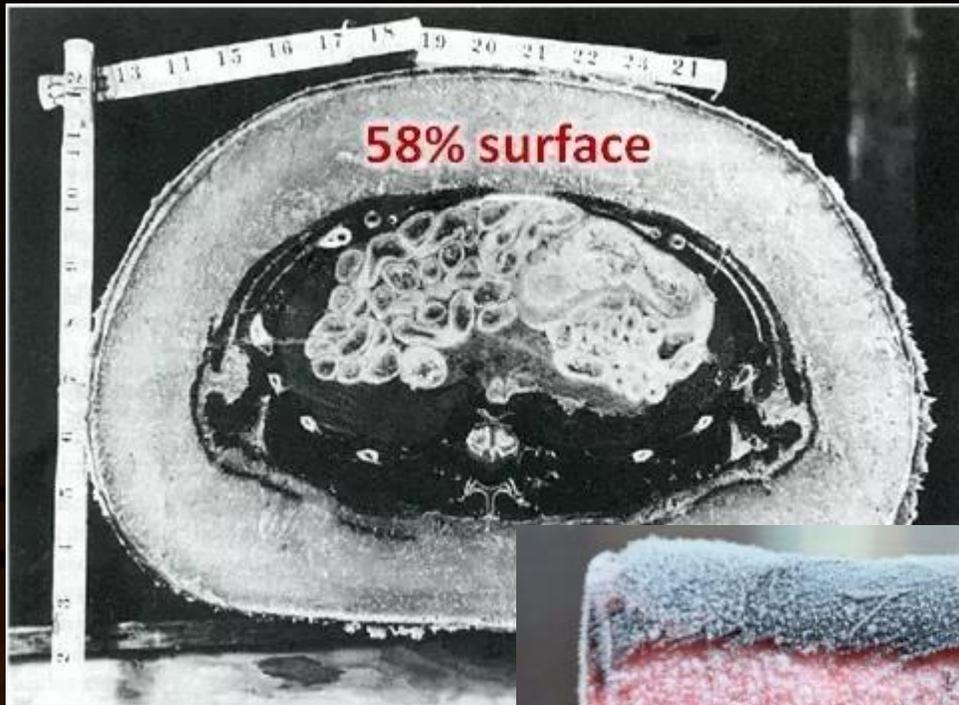


MORPHOLOGY: Insulation Mechanisms

Fur and hair trap a layer of air close to the body, which creates a barrier against heat loss

Surface Area \times Δ Temperature

Thermal Resistance



MORPHOLOGY: Insulation Mechanisms

Blubber is a thick layer of fat that provides insulation as heat loss slows down through the fat molecules

Important for marine mammals as water conducts heat faster than air

Surface Area \times Δ Temperature

Thermal Resistance

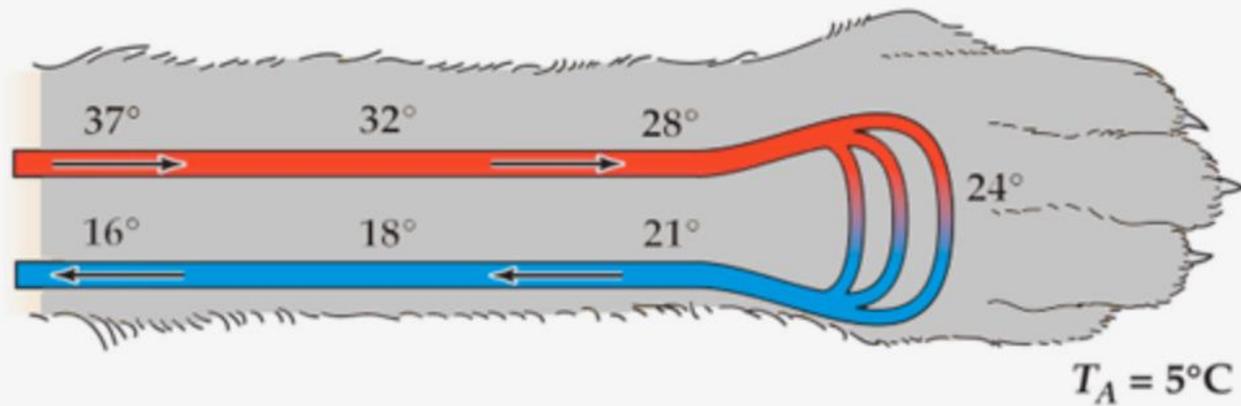


MORPHOLOGY: Limb and Appendages

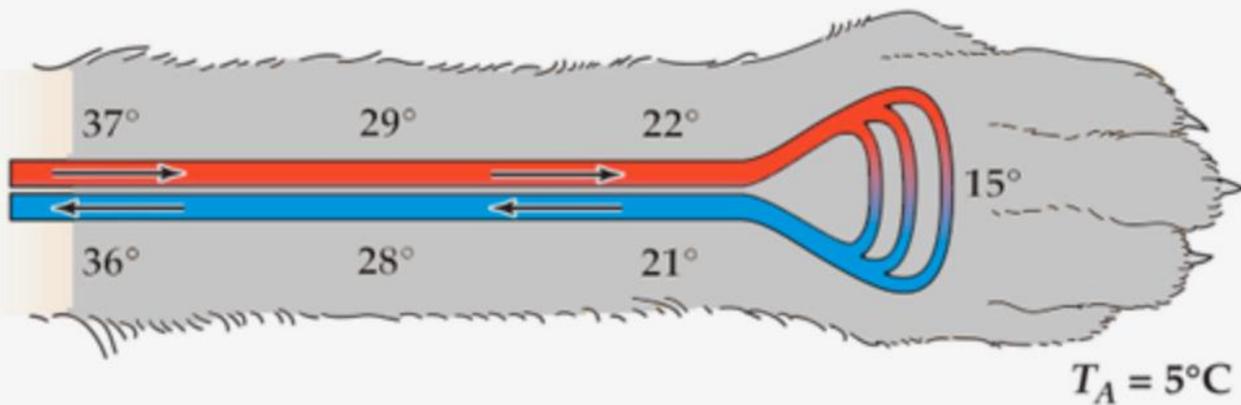
Compact body shapes prevent heat loss from appendages and decrease surface area, slowing down heat loss

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$

(a) Blood flow without countercurrent heat exchange



(b) Blood flow with countercurrent heat exchange

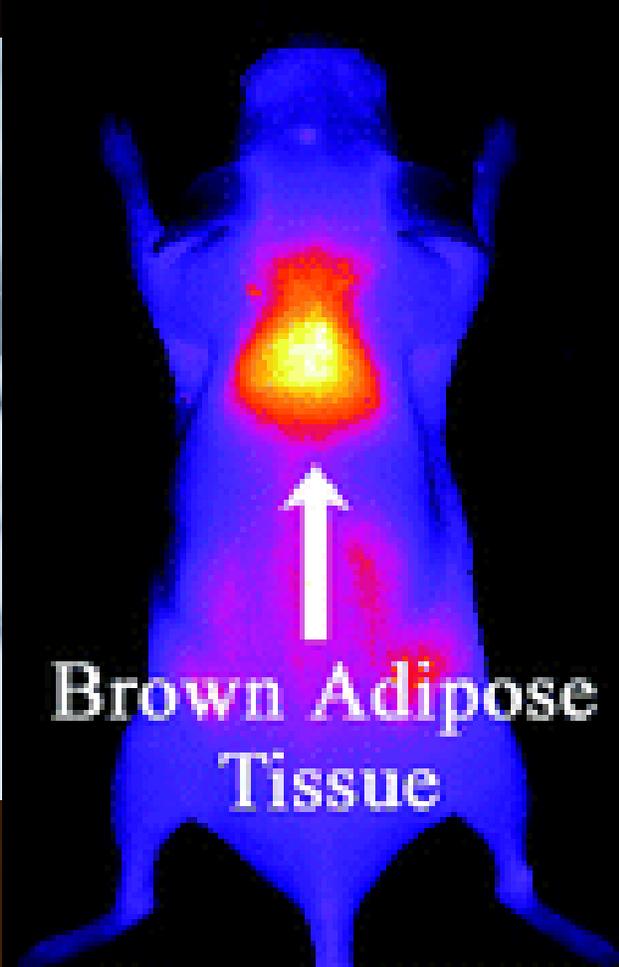


ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY 3E, Figure 10.35
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PHYSIOLOGY: Limb and Appendages

Counter-current heat exchange places arteries and veins close to each other so warm blood coming from the heart will warm cold blood coming from extremities

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



PHYSIOLOGY: Metabolic Adjustments

Shivering thermogenesis uses muscle contractions to increase body temperatures

Brown adipose tissue (brown fat) can be broken down to release heat

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



PHYSIOLOGY: Metabolic Adjustments

Torpor is a brief period of dormancy in which individuals reduce activity and body temperature

Hibernation is multiple long torpor bouts

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$

BEHAVIOR: Microhabitats & Migration Patterns

Some animals will use microhabitats that provide warm refuges from colder air or water temperatures

Some animals will migrate to warmer areas



BEHAVIOR: Cuddling & Huddling

Huddling reduces heat loss by decreasing exposed surface area and increases the surrounding air temperature through neighbor's body heat

Surface Area \times Δ Temperature
Thermal Resistance



BEHAVIOR: Postural Changes

Postural changes can reduce exposed surface area often cover up areas with reduce insulation

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{ Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$

Warm Weather Adaptations

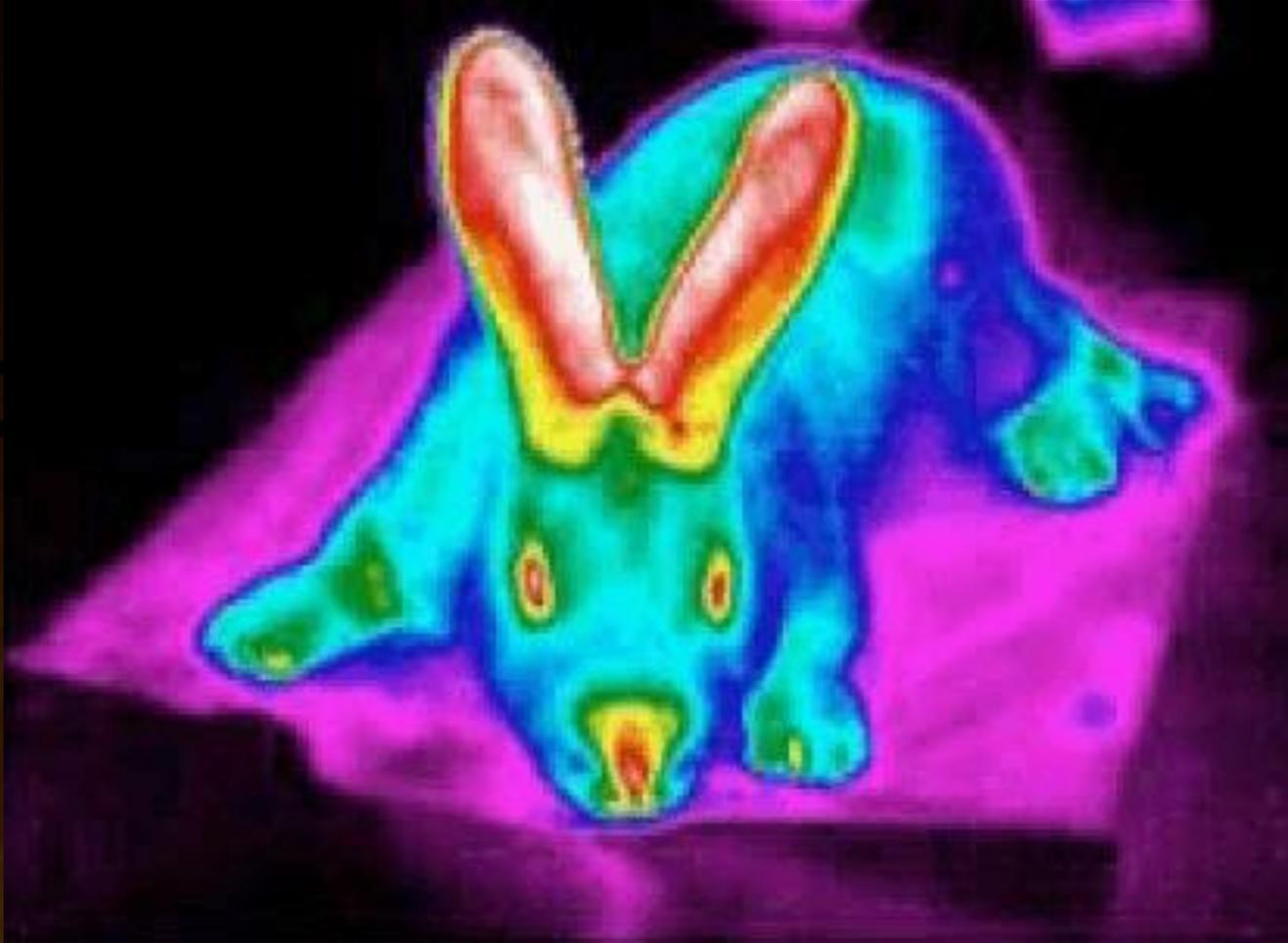




PHYSIOLOGY: Evaporative Cooling

Evaporative cooling is the most efficient way to lose heat, but many animals do not sweat as it results in water loss

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



PHYSIOLOGY: Thermal Windows

Thermal windows are areas with little insulation, large surface area, and vascular structures to bring warm blood close to the skin's surface

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



BEHAVIOR: Nighttime Activity

Nocturnal activity allows animals to look for food when temperatures may not be as hot

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



BEHAVIOR: Microhabitats & Burrowing

Animals will alter their behavior to use burrows or shade during warm periods

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



BEHAVIOR: Posture Changes

Postural changes can increase surface area that is exposed to the air, which increases heat loss

$$\frac{\text{Surface Area} \times \Delta \text{Temperature}}{\text{Thermal Resistance}}$$



MORPHOLOGY: Limb and Appendances

Often animals that live in warm environments will have thinner coats of hair which allows heat loss

Surface Area \times Δ Temperature

Thermal Resistance

Insights for Human Adaptations

By drawing parallels between mammalian adaptations and potential human applications, researchers can develop technologies, clothing, and lifestyle recommendations to enhance our ability to cope with heat stress and promote comfort in hot environments



Conservation Considerations

Many mammal species around the world have experienced population declines due to human activities, including habitat destruction, pollution, overexploitation, invasive species, and climate change



Climate change is causing declines in wildlife populations world-wide



- Shifting habitats
- Altered migration patterns
- Trophic level disruptions
- Phenology mismatches
- Increased disease impacts
- Ecosystem changes
- Local adaptation

Due to humans, extinction risk for 1,700 animal species to increase by 2070

Amphibians, birds, and mammals at greater extinction risk by shrinking their natural habitats thanks to human land-use expansion



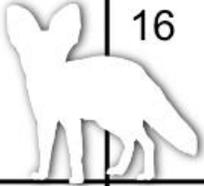
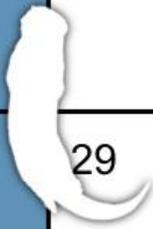
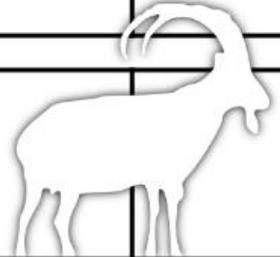
Call to Action: Understanding and Preserving Mammalian Biodiversity in a Changing Climate



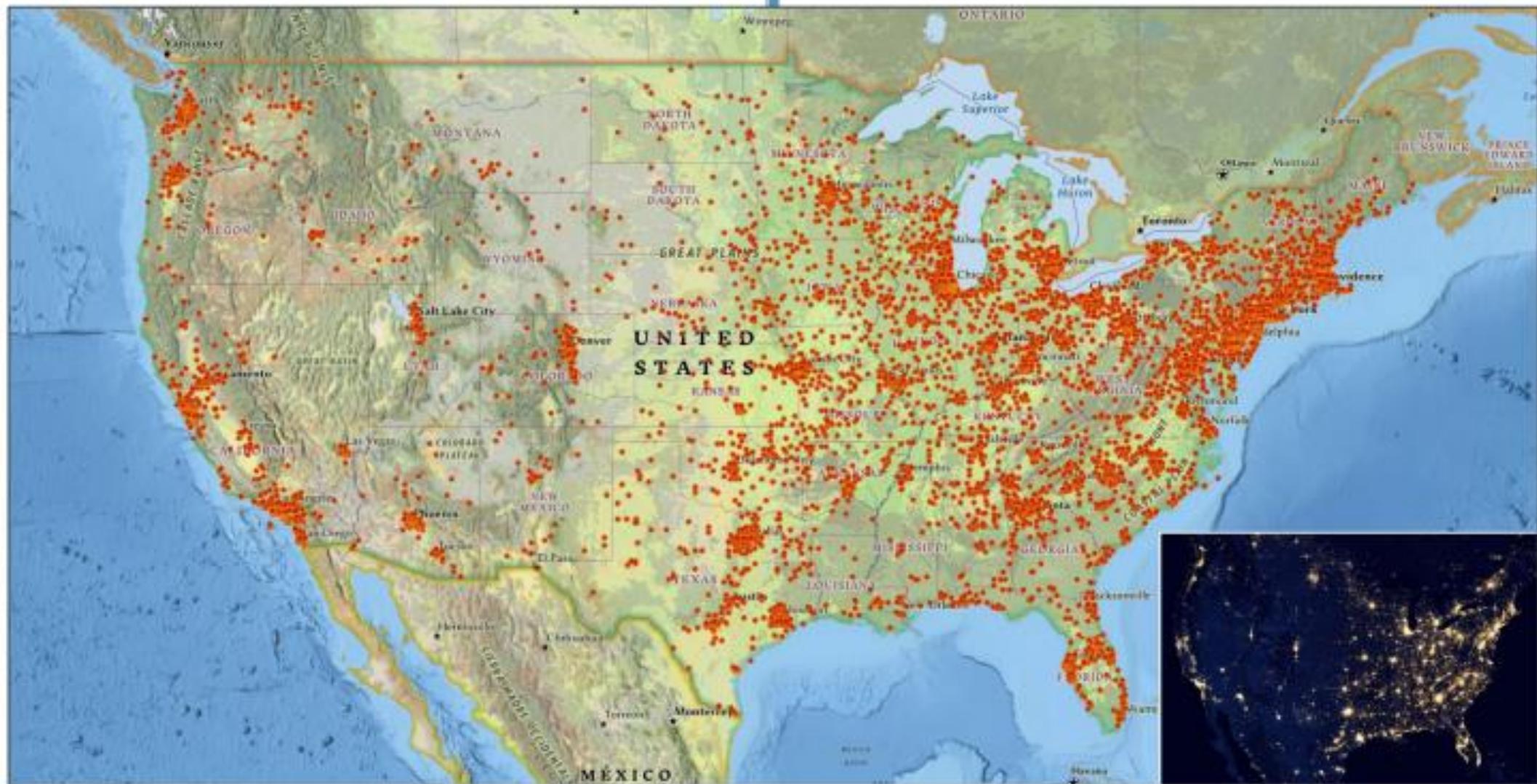
2024 MARCH
MAMMAL
MAMMALS
MAMMALS

"If you're learning, you're winning!"

2024 MARCH MAMMAL MADNESS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 MARCH	4	5	6	7	8	9
RESEARCH COMBATANTS! PICK YOUR CHAMPION!						
10 Rethink your whole bracket in agonies of second-guesses	11 WILD CARD	12	13 R1: Epic Animals	14 R1: Connoisseur Critters	15 	16
17 	18 R1: Rainbow Collection	19	20 R1: Take a Bow	21 R2: EA & CC 	22	23
24	25 R2: RC & TaB	26	27 SWEET SIXTEEN	28 ELITE TRAIT	29	30
31 April	1 FINAL ROAR	2			4	5 

Animal silhouettes from PhyloPic.org, Public Domain.
Thank you Margot Michaud et al.



USA Geographic Distribution of Educators Requesting MMMaterials. Latitude and longitude locations, centered by postal zip code with inset image [City Lights of the United States](#) by NASA for population context. Educator survey conducted according to protocol STUDY00007542 approved by ASU IRB. Thank you to all survey participants! (Map Image by K. Hinde, special thanks to Marc Kissel for zip code conversions & Matt Toro for arcGIS guidance.)

Questions?

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