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Salle de réunion

THE BANK VOLE INVASION IN IRELAND AS A MODEL SYSTEM TO STUDY PARASITE DYNAMICS AND IMMUNOGENETICS OF INVADERS AND NATIVES

par

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-  A unique opportunity to study the processes involved in emerging infectious diseases currently exists in Ireland due to the introduction of the bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*), via Germany in the 1920's. The continuing range expansion of the bank vole within Ireland presents a natural large-scale perturbation experiment, with empirical data and known expansion routes already available.
-  This knowledge, which is based in part on data I am currently collecting, combined with bank voles being an established model species for studying disease dynamics, creates an ideal and rare system to study the factors that influence the invasion process and the emergence of infectious diseases. In particular, we investigate variations in parasite dynamics throughout the bank vole's range, with particular focus on where voles are currently establishing.
-  Furthermore, the project will address how the vole's immunological gene expression is adapting to their range expansion, as well as how they are altering the immunological gene expression of the native wood mouse species (*Apodemus sylvaticus*).



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