WORLD ARCHIVES OF SPECIES PERCEPTION (The WASP Project)

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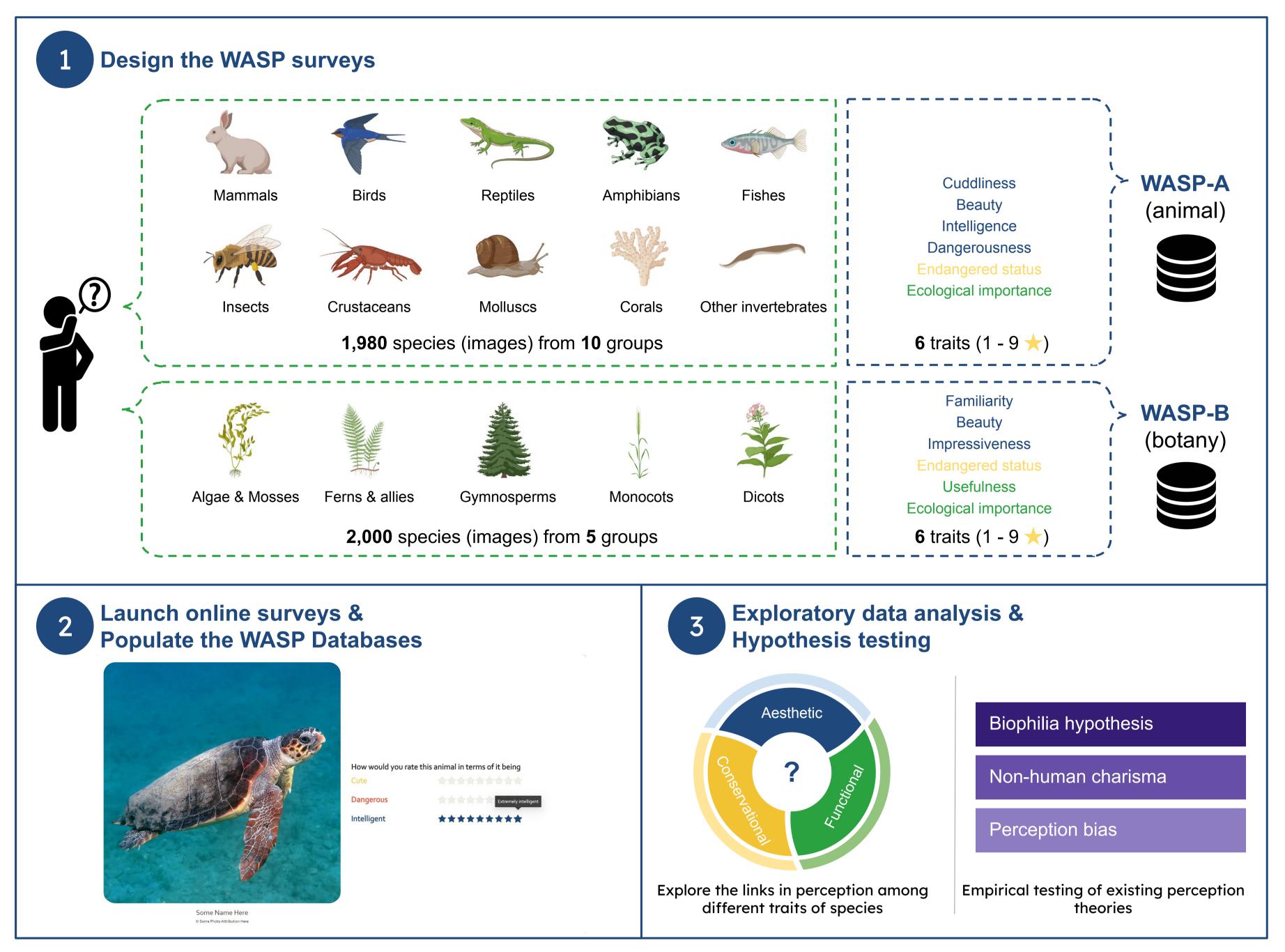


Introduction

While human perception can play a role in influencing public support for species conservation, the mechanisms underlying human perception remain poorly understood. Some previous studies on perception have focused on a few specific taxa, which makes understanding of public perception for species at large a resourceand time-intensive task.

Here, we introduce the **World Archives of Species Perception** (WASP) project that consists of an animal survey and a plant survey to construct the first systematic database to study human perception for the floral and faunal diversity at a global scale. We provide a description of our survey method, species selection, survey implementation, and a discussion of the potential uses of our databases in multidisciplinary research.

Methodology overview



WASP Databases

We contribute novel databases that are:

- Open-access
- Contain public perception at the global scale
- Contain the largest and most taxonomically diverse lists of species to date

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DATABASE QUALITY CONTROL

Species taxonomic representativeness & sampling strategy

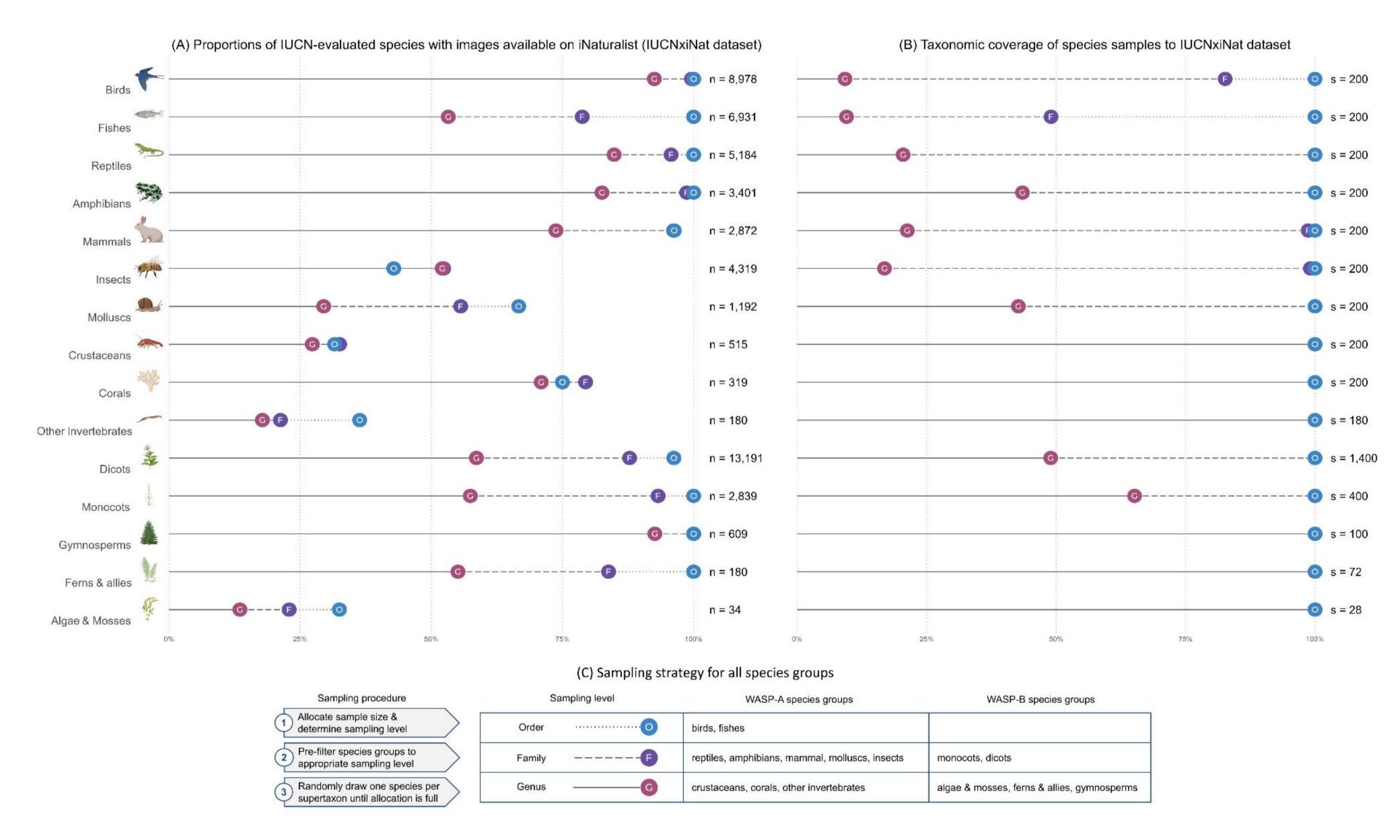
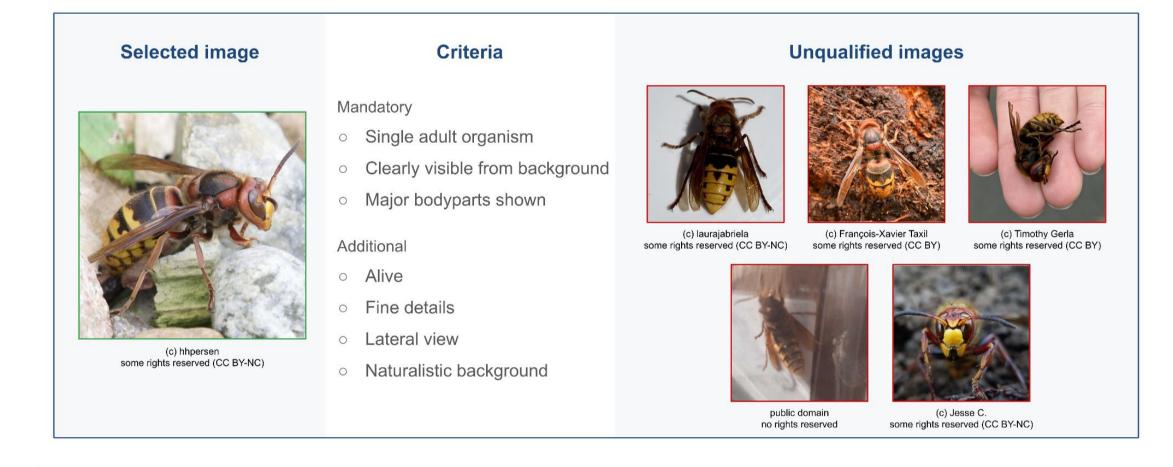


Image quality

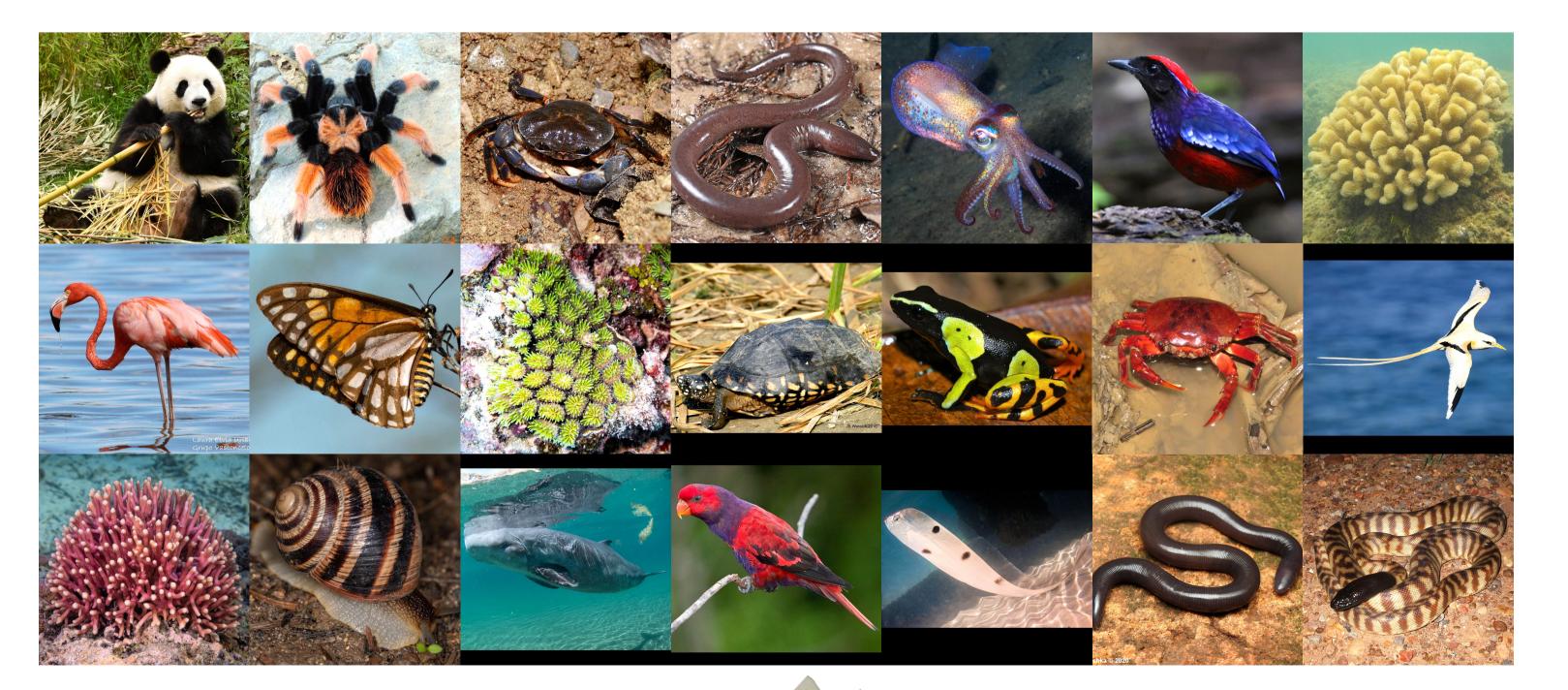


Species images are manually selected, following some quality control criteria mentioned above. If a selected species does not have any image satisfying the mandatory criteria, we resample the species such that the taxonomic structure of the sample is maintained.

We build our species samples based on two major species databases - (1) the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and (2) the citizen-science image database iNaturalist Research-Grade Observations. From this combined species list, we apply our random sampling procedure which maximizes taxonomic distinctiveness across species groups.

This results in the animal survey containing 1,980 IUCN-evaluated species of 25 classes, 192 orders, 1,037 families, and 1,705 genera; and the plant survey containing 2,000 IUCN-evaluated species of 13 classes, 93 orders, 386 families, and 1,968 genera.

EXAMPLE SPECIES



DATABASE APPLICABILITY

In addition, the WASP databases can also be used to support conservation efforts and species communications, by

• Discovering and predicting new charismatic species, especially in lesser-known





groups

- Identifying traits of species that are interesting for the general public
- Promoting species knowledge that matches the general public interest
- Supporting the plural valuation of biodiversity as highlighted in IPBES with novel indicators to measure species aesthetic value, which can be used in species value assessments

Interested in more information?

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Or visit the WASP project website at: http://wasp-project.net/

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