

# Ruth Patrick

- Ruth Patrick had a significant impact in scientific community because of her work with diatoms and monitoring freshwater ecosystems. Most notable was her work and experimentation studying the formation of diatom communities, and the factors that impacted that formation such as invasion rate and size of the species pool or area. She designed a series of experiments to explore the impact of these factors. She then examined the structure of diatom communities both in the United States and in the Caribbean Islands and found that these communities had similar structure shifts to the ones predicted by her experiments.
  - Patrick, Ruth. "The Formation and Maintenance of Benthic Diatom Communities." *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, vol. 120, no. 6, 1976, pp. 475–84. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/986600>. Accessed 2 Mar. 2024.
- Ruth Patrick was interested in science from a young age, when she collected anything from living organisms such as worms and plants to non-living things such as rocks. She received her PhD from the University of Virginia before working with the Academy of Natural Sciences as a volunteer.

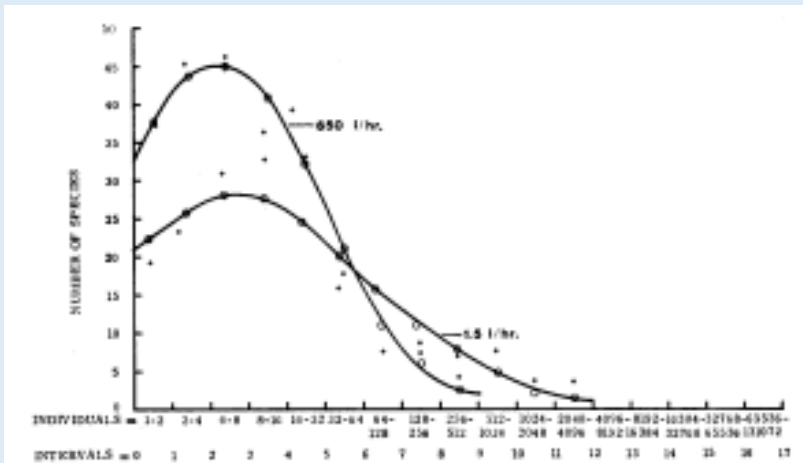


FIG. 4. Effects of invasion on structure of truncated normal curve, Darby Creek, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.



FIG. 2. Upper: Early stage of community development. Lower: Late stage of community development.

