

# Review of: "Biodiversity, Anthropogenic"

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The paper is very interesting because it exposes a rather original point of view on the domestication of wild animals and plants. However, I disagree with some things:

1) it is true that initially domestication may have established, through selection made by man, some characteristics that would have been lost in wild forms because they were not adaptive and, therefore, may have increased overall genetic diversity. However, the continuous selection for more productive breeds and varieties has reduced the diversity of domesticated species; in fact, many breeds and varieties have been abandoned and have disappeared from farms.

2) it is also true that domestic breeds can maintain a part of the genetic heritage of species that are now extinct or in danger of extinction and this could be useful for future reintroductions into the wild, however subject to counter-selection that brings these species back to their original characteristics (but which exactly?). In fact, the breeds domesticated after millennia of anthropogenic selection are totally unsuitable for a life in the wild and are totally dependent on man.

These aspects should be explored further in the paper.

Although systematics and taxonomy are continually evolving as analysis techniques are perfected, as regards the wolf and the dog, it seems that the species is the same, but the subspecies is different: *Canis lupus* the first and *Canis lupus familiaris* the second. Furthermore, it seems that domestication began well before 14,000 years ago and dates back as far as 35,000 years ago. Moreover, Domestic cattle all belong to the *Bos taurus* species and the zebu, which can be distinguished from the cow by its hump and dewlap, is a subspecies called *Bos taurus indicus*.

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