

Review of: "Biodiversity, Anthropogenic"

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This is an interesting read, but the arguments are somewhat flawed. The idea that cultural impacts such as agriculture over long periods of human history has generated and effectively conserved some aspects of biodiversity is indeed sound. These are eco-cultural landscapes and reflect human-nature interactions over long timelines. This facet is frequently overlooked in current environmental dialogues.

However, although there are examples of domestic hybridisation triggering new 'species' these are few and far between. Similarly, emergence of new species in response to extinction episodes as suggested by Chris Thomas et al. does not occur in realistic ecological timescales. In this context, domestication is certainly not the 'creation of new species' – so I think the author needs to re-consider this assertion because it is fundamentally flawed.

Much of the argument presented is in the form of a review and with personal observations, and whilst some of this is interesting, the conclusions seem at best unproven. Overall, the article needs careful review in terms of grammar and style [there are errors even in the first sentence], but more serious is the need to move from assertion to evidence-based writing. Consider the key questions raised and state these clearly. Then move on to an objective presentation, interrogation, and discussion of the evidence. Avoid personal, subjective, and unsupported statements and the result will be a more robust and balanced article.